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BITCOIN BREAKS RECORDS, PRICE SOARS PAST ₹43 LAKH

The cryptocurrency hit $60,197 (₹43,75,675) on Saturday and continues to hover around $60K, according to CoinMarketCap

VALUE TREBLES IN THREE MONTHS

Bitcoin has been on a meteoric rise since March last year, when it stood at $5,000, spurred by online payments giant PayPal saying it would allow account holders to use cryptocurrency. From $20,000 in December 2020, the digital currency has tripled in value over the past three months on the back of support from corporate heavyweights such as Tesla and Twitter

PROTOCOL BUILT ON BLOCKCHAIN

- Bitcoins are traded via a decentralised registry system known as a blockchain. The system requires massive computer processing power in order to manage and implement transactions
- That power is provided by "miners", who do so in the hope they will receive new bitcoins for validating transaction data

U.S.

STIMULUS PACKAGE TRIGGERED THE LATEST BITCOIN RALLY, SAY EXPERTS

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ WARANGAL ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

PM Narendra Modi at the BJP's Central Election Committee meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda are also seen | PTI

BJP weaponises defectors to pull Kerala Christians

Final meeting of CEC clears lists for all the states, popular faces likely to get TN seats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

WITH the full-fledged election campaign set to take off from Sunday, the BJP Central Election Committee (CEC) on Saturday met to finalise names of the remaining candidates in the poll-bound states. The CEC meeting was preceded by two days of marathon meetings at the residence of the party chief J P Nadda for each poll-bound state.

The meeting continued till late Saturday evening, with the party leaning on turncoats and known state faces to contest elections,

While details of the meeting were not immediately available, it is learnt the CEC approved the lists of candidates for all the states. The party is expected to release them in a staggered manner in the coming days, leaving scope for a few last-minute changes to accommodate important Opposition leaders.

The CEC meeting was chaired by Nadda and attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other members.

The BJP chief had sat down with Kerala leaders on Friday till late in the evening. The party plans to go aggressive in the state with professionals and Christian leaders imported from the ranks of the Congress.

> **BJP is keen to make base among Christians in Kerala; party will welcome key leaders from the community from the ranks of the Congress, with whom informal communication has been going on for a while**
>
> Senior BJP leader

The CEC meeting was attended by Shah, organisational secretary B L Santosh and other senior functionaries. "All important leaders, including a few Rajya Sabha MPs, besides known faces in the state will contest the Assembly elections," said a senior BJP functionary.

In Tamil Nadu, the BJP CEC is learnt to have discussed the names of candidates for 17 seats. Popular party faces are likely to contest, sources told *TNIE*.

The saffron outfit will field a large number of turncoats from the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Left in West Bengal, with party leaders arguing that gaining cadre strength with such imported leaders would be key to win elections.

New draft policy puts heat on Amazon, Flipkart

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

IN a bid to check the alleged unfair trade practices by large e-commerce players such as Amazon, Flipkart and e-Bay, the Centre on Saturday proposed that they desist from deploying algorithms to promote select few sellers or offering deep discounts only to a small group of vendors. According to the draft e-commerce policy, online market places must treat all vendors registered on their platforms equally.

While the draft policy seeks to tighten the noose around large e-commerce players, it also offers several measures to safeguard consumer interest, counter misleading sales and regulate data usage.

"Consumers have a right to be made aware of all relevant details about the goods and services offered for sale including country of origin, value addition in India, and any other such information which may be necessary for making an informed decision at the pre-purchase stage," it said.

According to a Commerce ministry official, the policy will prevent monopoly by large e commerce companies like Amazon.

"There have been many reports and complaints of these firms excluding sellers by denying them equal platform, refusing to provide transparency in data sharing and evading some of the foreign investment rules," said an official.

The official, who did not wish to be named, added the proposed policy will be discussed with market players before rolling it out. The Commerce ministry is likely to hold discussions on the rules next week, he added.

The proposals are likely to ruffle foreign e-comm majors' feathers as they were already upset about government's demand to pay additional 2% for revenue generated from Indian customers.

WHAT'S IN THE DRAFT

E-commerce players to make their discount policies transparent by explaining the basis of discount rates for different products and suppliers

Govt to ensure availability of more service providers and stop digital monopolies misusing their dominant market position

Companies to ensure products offered are genuine; liability for counterfeit products will be on the online firm and the seller

To ensure that e-commerce is not used to defraud customers, registration with an authority identified by the government would be made mandatory

Consumers have the right to know all relevant details about the goods and services offered for sale including country of origin, value addition in India, and any other such info which may be necessary for making an informed purchase decision

Wear mask properly or get off the plane: DGCA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

AIR passengers who refuse to wear face masks properly or follow social distancing rules during a flight despite being warned repeatedly could be put on the no-fly list for a period ranging from three months to two years. These are part of the new guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation amid a rise in the number of cases across the country. Airlines have been instructed to deboard passengers who refuse to comply with Covid-19 rules before a flight takes off. India's civil aviation rules for unruly passengers allow airlines to put people on a no-fly list for varying durations — three months for verbal abuse, six months for assault, and two years or more for life-threatening behaviour. A Delhi High Court judge had recently drawn up similar guidelines for callous fliers.

COVID-19 GRAPH INCHING UPWARDS IN K'TAKA; NO 2nd WAVE YET, SAY EXPERTS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WHILE Maharashtra and Kerala are seeing a big rise in the number of Covid-19 cases, Karnataka too has been recording sporadic spikes in daily new cases. Compared to January and February, the numbers have come down, but over the last four days, the state has again been recording a rise in cases.

On Friday, 37 people tested positive in Kalaburagi district, including 22 from Kalaburagi city. Shahbad town witnessed the death of a patient. In Dharwad, one Covid-related death was reported on Friday after a long time.

Tumakuru is recording an average of 37 cases daily over the last four days, with 42 new infections on Saturday alone. While Mandya district still has 26 active cases, there is worry about returnees from Maharashtra during festivals. Mysuru district too is recording over 50 new cases on some days.

However, experts are not yet terming it a second wave in Karnataka, but emphasise that people should remain cautious.

"It is unlikely that we are seeing a second wave in the state. The number of cases do not signify that. There are three aspects to check is there is a second wave — severity of illness in Covid-19 patients, increase in positivity rate and increase in ICU care and oxygen support in hospitals. But right now, there is nothing to hint at a second wave. However, we have to keep a close watch on the small spikes in cases seen and bring it under control," said Dr Anoop Amarnath, Head, Scientific Board and Chairman-Geriatric Medicine, Manipal Hospital.

CONTINUED ON: P3

An under-construction house for protesting farmers adjacent the highway, at Tikri border in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

Protesting farmers booked for building structures at Delhi gates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chandigarh/New Delhi

THE Haryana Police have booked farmers for allegedly constructing concrete structures and sinking a borewell near Singhu towards Kundli on National Highway-44. The Singhu border near Delhi is the venue where hundreds of farmers congregated in protest against the new farm laws for months.

Sources said the state police have registered two separate cases under the National Highways Act and various sections of the IPC for building illegal structures on NH-44 in front of Malwa Motors, obstructing the highway, and digging a borewell in a field near KFC Mall that is close to the highway.

However, Harinder Singh Lakhowal, general secretary of BKU (Lakhowal), said, "We are not constructing any permanent structure, but plan to install solar panels in order to save the farmers from the summer." P8

Solar panels to manage summer

"This is just the beginning of summer. The government has not provided any power connection, so we are installing solar panels as to be able to run small fans," said a UP farmer

Back home, Disha pours her heart out

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

CLIMATE activist Disha Ravi returned to Bengaluru on Saturday, exactly a month after she was arrested by the Delhi police from her house in the City in the controversial toolkit case. She spoke to her family friend and advocate R Prasanna. "She told me that she wanted to put out a statement on social media. She sounded okay and comfortable in her skin," said Prasanna.

Disha later tweeted a four-page statement on her Twitter handle on what she went through after her arrest. P4

EXPRESS READ

Yashwant Sinha joins TMC ahead of elections

Kolkata: Former Union minister Yashwant Sinha, a bitter critic of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi regime, on Saturday joined Trinamool Congress days ahead of the high-octane West Bengal assembly polls.

Jarkiholi files complaint, woman seeks protection in video appeal

MANJU SHETTAR @ Bengaluru

OVER a week after he resigned from Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's Cabinet following an alleged sleaze CD controversy, BJP leader Ramesh Jarkiholi on Saturday filed a complaint against "unknown persons" for defaming him. Based on Jarkiholi's complaint, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered for "putting a person in fear of injury, for extortion and forgery".

A police officer said former MLA Nagaraju, a confidant of Jarkiholi, registered the complaint on behalf of the former minister. Jarkiholi had sent a one-page complaint, signed by him, through Nagaraju.

In his complaint, Jarakiholi alleged that a political conspiracy was hatched against him since three months and some people had made a fake CD to extort money from him, shared it with an activist, and it was also uploaded on social media. It is an act of blackmail, defamation, extortion and forgery, he alleged.

However, in a twist to the case, the woman in the purported video, released a statement hours after the FIR was registered. In her 34-second video statement to a private news channel, she claimed that she is not responsible for leak of the CD and she is innocent. "I request Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai to give protection to me and my family. I have no idea how the video was made and released," she claimed. P5

HC says probe agencies can hack into smartphones, emails

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a ruling that could have far-reaching implications, the Karnataka High Court has said that an investigating agency is at liberty to engage a specialised agency, whenever required, to crack the login credentials — password, passcode or biometrics — and gain access to electronic devices or e-mail accounts of an accused if the person does not cooperate with the investigators even after a search warrant is obtained from a court.

Expressing concern over the possibility of an e-mail account getting blocked automatically due to multiple use of wrong login credentials, deliberately provided by the accused, Justice Suraj Govindaraj laid down certain procedures to be followed by the investigating agencies. P5

CRYING WOLF

Tiger in the estate! But wait... Forest dept sees ploy

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

REMEMBER the grandma's tale of a boy crying out about a wolf coming to attack a herd of sheep, and the villagers not believing him when it actually did? Something similar seems to be playing out in Kodagu these days.

Locals and estate owners are making repeated calls to the Forest Department stating that they have seen pug marks or complaining about dogs barking at night on sighting a tiger. Some others even claimed to have seen a tiger. Acting on each call, foresters are deployed to check, but in most cases, they are turning out to be hoax.

After a close analysis of all the cases, the Forest Department has now realised that locals are making such calls so that the department staffers are deployed on their estates and their coffee and pepper crop is protected from thieves.

"Calls about the presence of a tiger have become a daily affair. We get over 10-12 calls a day and none of them can be ignored, as it could be a probable lead. But 99 per cent of the times, it is fake. Since a call has been reported, it becomes mandatory to deploy staffers to check the estate for a few days, which is turning out to be a sort of free protection for the estate by the forest staffers," commented a senior officer.

The Forest officials are combing areas of south Kodagu for over a week looking for the elusive male tiger, which is said to have claimed three lives and killed many heads of cattle. The department has deployed over 100 staffers, along with darters, veterinarians, tranquilising experts and sharpshooters to catch the tiger.

"Due to the repeated calls and tip-offs from locals, the operation is getting effected as a section of the staff has to be diverted. We are now working on getting more staff, where one team will carry out the scheduled plan and the other will act on the calls we receive.," the official said.

WITH THIS ISSUE
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK

PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

Sanganakallu museum in Ballari district throws light on prehistoric life | P2

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

ALMANAC TODAY
• Sunday: 14/03/2021 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Prathami 3.49 pm • Nakshatra: Utthara Bhadra 1.14 am • Moon in Mesha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 18°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST Sunny

Sunrise 6.27 am
Sunset 6.30 pm
Moonrise 7.07 am
Moonset 7.22 am

02 BENGALURU | SUNDAY 14.03.2021 | newindianexpress.com

SKULL CASTS AT THE MUSEUM

3.2 Million-year-old approx Australopithecus afarensis

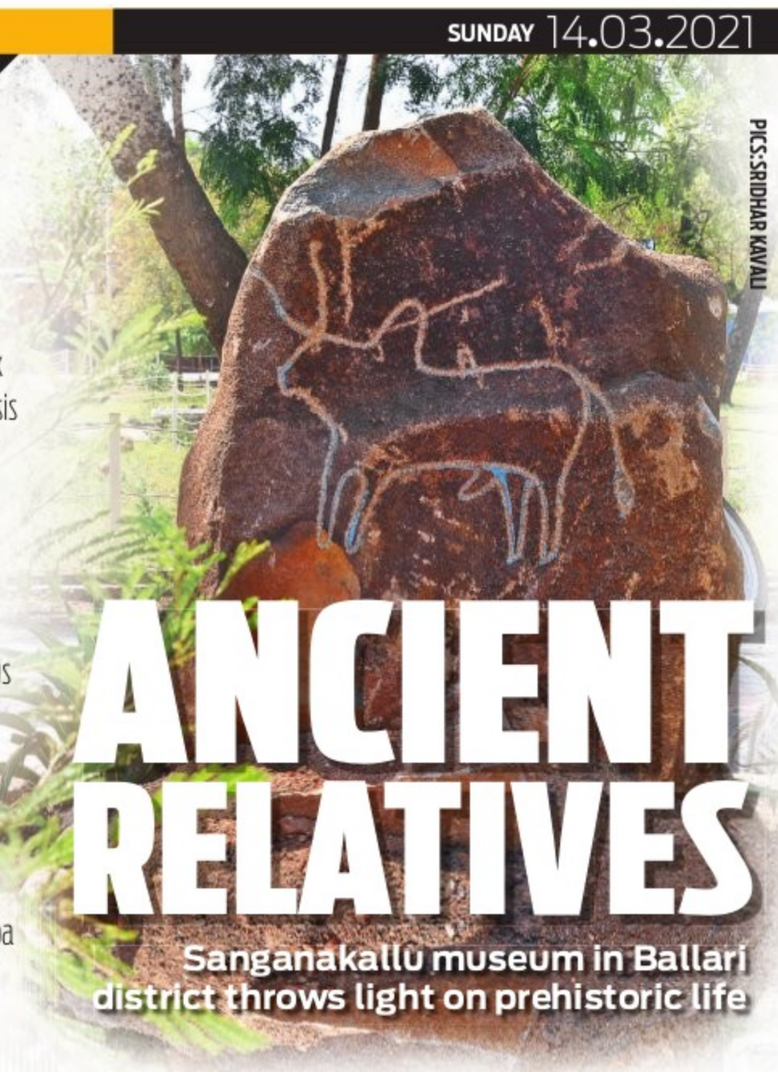
2.5 Million-year-old Australopithecus africanus

2.0 Million-year-old Australopithecus sediba

1.9 Million-year-old Homo habilis

1.0 Million-year-old Homo erectus ergaster, Africa

1.0 Million-year-old Homo erectus, Sangran, Indonesia



PICS: SRIDHAR KAVALI

ANCIENT RELATIVES

Sanganakallu museum in Ballari district throws light on prehistoric life

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S

IF you visit Ballari district, then travelling thousands and thousands of years into the past --- in fact to the Paleolithic and Neolithic ages -- must be high on your itinerary. The Robert Bruce Foote Sanganakallu Archaeological Museum, a unique prehistoric museum of stone age implements, started at Sanganakallu last year.

Most of these collections are stone tools and pottery, white shell bone and steatite beads, iron implements and terracotta objects. The beads of Jwalapuram (AP) are one of the largest collections of late Pleistocene symbolic items in South Asia. The beads recovered from Sanganakallu are also on display here. They provide an insight into the ornamentation from that period, which is made from steatite, quartzite, agate, red-jasper and carnelian.

The terracotta bulls were votive cult objects of worship by households at Sanganakallu during the Neolithic Iron Age period. Remains of arrowheads, spearheads, and images of aggression against wild animals give insight into their hunting capabilities.

How the museum came into existence itself is fascinating. In 1996, Prof. Ravi Korisettar, professor, Department of History and Archaeology, Karnatak University, Dharwad, worked as a guide to Dorian Fuller, now professor of Archaeobotany, University College London, to research on the emergence of agricultural economies in Southern Indian Neolithic by gathering evidence on the nature of agriculture and types of food crops cultivated by the Neolithic people of the region.

During their visit to several sites, they came across Sanganakallu near Ballari, where Prof. Korisettar was shocked to see that it was almost destroyed by large-scale granite quarrying. He immediately got into action to save the site which has a lot of information still waiting to be discovered. He then worked on establishing the museum.

"During our early visits we concentrated on salvaging the evidence, and gradually began to plan a systematic multidisciplinary work. My friends from Cambridge, London, and universities in India and abroad joined hands. The first and foremost thing was to document the site's archaeological landscape through total station mapping. We then approached the district authorities to intervene and stop the destructive quarrying. During this period, Aravind Srivastava was the Deputy Commissioner and our repeated interactions with him resulted in a positive development," says Prof. Korisettar.

After putting a stop to quarrying, the DC gave him a place to store Sanganakallu artefacts and start a museum. Prof. Korisettar had collected Palaeolithic and Neolithic stone implements since 1975 from the Krishna valley and its tributaries in Karnataka, which were stored in Deccan College and Karnatak University, Dharwad.

"They were part of my PhD and later research projects undertaken in collaboration with archaeologists in India and abroad. Two major excavation projects were undertaken in Ballari and Kurnool district (Andhra Pradesh) and all these objects from these two projects were brought to the museum for a systematic cataloguing. This was an inspiration from Bruce Foote's catalogues published by the Madras Government Museum in Chennai," says Prof. Korisettar.

Robert Bruce Foote, the father of Indian Prehistory, undertook surveys in these regions during 1863 and 1906, and had identified important sites in the reconstruction of the prehistory of India.

The museum today hosts thousands of artefacts. It begins from the Palaeolithic age, spans through the Neolithic age and ends with the beginning of the historic age. Thus, giving a classic insight into the life of early man.

"Key objects of this museum include those from Sanganakallu Neolithic complex, the Malaprabha river basin, materials from Kurnool district archaeological project including Jwalapuram. We have around 50,000 artefacts collected from these regions," says Sanjana Rangan, Research Coordinator, at the museum.

The museum has developed archaeological landscapes. A replica of Sanganakallu hills has been created in the museum and the space outside has landscapes which reflect the Neolithic and Megalithic features at the site. Every exhibit displays information like from where these artefacts came from and their period.

Prehistoric study is considered incomplete without knowledge of human evolution. The museum provides complete details about the evolution of humans. Replicas of the early man have been displayed with information. "Fifteen skull casts are exhibited at the museum along with a short description, and chronologically arranged to depict their place in the evolutionary sequence," says Sanjana.

These skulls are exact replicas of their originals and were gifted to Prof. Korisettar for this museum by Marta Lahr, University of Cambridge, UK, and Sheela Athreya of Texas A and M University, USA.

There are two human fossil remains from India in the list. One is from Hathmora in Narmada valley, which dates to approximately 3,50,000 years ago and the other one is from Jwalapuram where fragments of a child's skull dating between 15,000 and 20,000 years ago have been found.

> A museum normally focuses on history and a panel dedicated for prehistory. But this museum in Ballari is a full-fledged prehistoric museum.
>
> — Santosh Martin, historian who played a crucial role in setting up the museum

Sanjana Rangan

HE FINDS NEW MEANING IN OLD NEWSPAPERS

DIVYA CUTINHO @Mangaluru

IF indeed, journalism is the first rough draft of history, then a Mangaluru teacher has been a dedicated preserver of such drafts in his corner of the world.

Since 1960, Umesh Rao has collected newspapers and other publications as a hobby, but looking at them now, they reflect the ideas, events, political intrigue, preoccupations, and even sensationalism of times when there was little else that served as a record for future generations.

For instance, the lead story in Nirmala Sandhya Vani, an eveninger, on February 23, 1979, on a proposed steel plant to be set up in Mangaluru in collaboration with French technical experts. Another newspaper carries a photograph of an erstwhile Congress giant from the coast - Janardhana Poojary - and asks if he will join the BJP.

The sheer number of newspaper titles that Umesh has copies of, indicate just how many diverse voices, information, and perspectives found their way to the public before media consolidation and the decline of the newspaper industry in a globalised world -- and now the pandemic -- narrowed it down to a trickle.

His collection has literally taken over his house in Yekkar (about 20km from Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district), and comprises over 3,000 editions of newspapers and periodicals mostly in Kannada, and a smaller number in Bengali, Hindi, and Konkani. It also includes copies of newspapers from across the country, such as The Statesman, the Hitavada, The Free Press Journal and Dainik Bhaskar.

He also has a valuable collection of copies of around 45 discontinued publications in Tulu, a major language of coastal Karnataka whose speakers use the Kannada alphabet to write as the script of the language has been lost to antiquity.

Although he has never travelled abroad, some of his students have, and oblige him with copies of newspapers available in the places they visit. Thus, he has around 500 copies of international newspapers such as China Daily, The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, and The Weekend Australian.

Born in Yekkar near Bajpe, Umesh did his schooling in Kateel. He completed pre-university and graduation from St Aloysius College in Mangaluru, and then obtained a Bachelor of Education from Manipal College in Udupi. He began his career as a teacher at Kateel Durgaparameshwari High School, and went on to serve as vice principal for around 33 years before retiring. He now lives with his sister Sukanya, and they both look after his collection.

"My dream is to have these exhibited at a museum but that requires a lot of money and I have no financial support. The collection will help researchers, students, and journalists if we preserve them in museums," says the 74-year-old, who is also the recipient of the best teacher award in Dakshina Kannada district.

Kannada University in Hampi had once sought his newspapers, but he declined. He has exhibited them on occasion, such as in schools and colleges, an event organised by the Press Club in 2015. He has, however, stopped doing that as people tend to damage the paper. "They don't know the value of newspapers. Hence, to preserve them, I have stopped exhibiting them outside. Anybody who's interested in these old, rare newspapers, can visit my house and take a look," he says.

Regular visitors include batches of journalism students from Mangalore University, and journalists who are curious about his collection.

The teacher in Umesh urges people to read newspapers. "It will enrich their knowledge. It is a good hobby. Due to TV and radio, there are fewer newspapers now. Even the number of people who buy and read newspapers has come down drastically. People must subscribe to at least one or two newspapers so that it will help children's education," he says.

Professor Jayaram Shetty, former principal of the school in Kateel, says that besides being an excellent teacher, Umesh Rao is a role model for many. "He encouraged students to read and write articles and poems, and instilled interest in literature."

Umesh's hobby has become his life and given it purpose. He continues to collect them with the hope that they will one day have a permanent home.

PIC: DIVYA CUTINHO, NAIZIL RODRIGUES

> He encouraged students to read and write articles and poems, and instilled interest in literature
>
> Professor Jayaram Shetty, former principal, Durgaparameshwari School

First editions include:

- Mangaluru Samachara, the first Kannada newspaper
- Prajamatha, Kannada weekly, published in 1937
- Mungaru, coastal newspaper
- Sudha, Kannada weekly

Tourism dept has new focus this holiday season: rural idylls

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

AS the holiday season approaches, and stake holders try different ways to attract tourists, the tourism department is working on promoting agri-tourism but with a twist. With the pandemic in mind, they are working towards combining rural idylls and wellness to offer a wholesome package.

The department is drawing in all stakeholders and is in talks with the agriculture and health departments on how they can be combined and promoted.

The state tourism department is also inspired by the Kerala model, where the private sector takes the lead and the government is a facilitator. Various subsidy models and promotional schemes are also being considered.

Already, some agencies organise seasonal agri-tourism ventures in their individual capacity such as visits to strawberry fields, vineyards and even mango plucking. But now as a part of the tourism policy, the tourism department is keen on making it an annual affair and a part of its calender of events.

A senior tourism official told The New Indian Express that the tourism policy has been released and it paves the way for promoting agri-tourism, along with many other products.

"Keeping the policy in mind, the sector is being promoted. Many traditional and rural sports, art works and cultivation need to be promoted along with the destination. Like in Coorg and Chikkamagalur there are many estates and home stays, so the packages there are well combined and draw tourists. Similar activities are happening in Kolar and Chikkabalapur, but on a small scale," the official said.

Importance must also be given to agriculturists, who are free most part of the year. In case of wellness, the tourism policy has already laid down the SOPs, but with agri-tourism, guidelines will be created based on what farmers have to offer and when.

GOPINATHAM MYSTERY TRAIL

Ever wondered which routes forest brigand Veerappan took to escape, to get the best wildlife sightings or what is hidden in the places he called his home? To answer all this and more, the Karnataka forest department and Jungle Lodges and Resorts are working on the Gopinatham Mystery Trails in Chamarajanagar. Apart from the Gopinatham wildlife safari, announced in the budget, and the opening of the Gopinatham camp, the two departments are now working on the trek and safari path. To draw tourists to eco-tourism sites this lean season, JLR is offering up to 50% discount for tourists. As a part of Women's Day, Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation is offering 10% discount on all bookings made till March 31.

IN A FLASH

Doctors and health workers from a private hospital organise a flash mob at a mall in Bengaluru on Saturday to create awareness about glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness | VINOD KUMAR T

No early summer holidays: Minister

Bengaluru: Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Suresh Kumar on Saturday rubbished rumours that schoolchildren would be promoted without examinations. The minister was responding to rumours about children in classes 1-6 being promoted without examinations, and attributed to him. Other rumours claimed that the minister had declared holidays for those grades in the wake of the rising number of Covid cases in Bengaluru. "Teachers are using local resources to hold assessments for their students. There is no proposal to declare summer holidays at this stage," the minister said.

Schools want fees for next year, parents in despair

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

EVEN as the legal battle over the 30 per cent reduction in tuition fees is going on, parents have already received deadlines to pay their wards' school for the next academic year.

Sijo Sebastian, a parent, told *TNSE* that a CBSE school in the city has sent a note to parents to pay the fee. The deadline for payment ranges from 24 hours to two weeks from the time the circular is given.

"Although schools have been told not to take coercive action against parents and the government has been told not to take coercive action against schools regarding the fees for the current academic year, managements have already started issuing circulars for the next year's fees," he said.

Parents are said to be facing up to a 30 per cent increase in school fees for the coming academic year. "Each year, the fees are increased by 15 per cent. But this year, schools are seeking double the normal hike to make up for the losses incurred last year," said another parent, Shakeel M.

"We did not pay the third and fourth term fee as our child was due to receive a scholarship from the school. However, the school has asked us not just to pay the coming academic year fee, but also the current year's dues," said R Pillai, a parent.

Susheel K, a parent of a third grader at an ICSE school, said that barring parents who had taken up the issue with the school, others got reminders about paying fees for the coming academic year.

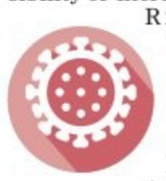
Several parents are even considering withdrawing their children from school. "I cannot pay the fees. Circulars were sent for the next year's fee in the first week of March, and interviews were scheduled for payment five days from then," Lakshmi, said. The commissioner for public instruction was unavailable for a comment.

VIRUS FIGHT

We need to be cautious and vigilant: Doc

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DR Giridhar Babu, member of the State Expert Committee, said, "It is very early to say that we are witnessing a second wave right now. However, with the susceptible population moving around and attending events like weddings, where there are larger crowds, there is a possibility of increase in cases.



Right now, wherever clusters have reported in the city, it has been after people attend- ed indoor events. If we start conducting tests at wedding and other events, we will be able to trace many cases and most of them would be asymptomatic. This will also help in identifying the infection early."

Dr Pradeep Banandur, Professor of Epidemiology at NIMHANS, and member of the state Technical Advisory Committee for Covid-19, had earlier pointed out to TNIE that the rise in cases was due to increased testing. "We cannot be relaxed, but we need to be cautious and vigilant."

On March 8, the state recorded 436 new cases, which increased to 590 on March 9. The next day, the state recorded 760 new cases, followed by 783 cases on March 11 which increased to 833 on March 12. In February, the cases were in the range of 300 to 400, but touching 700 on some days. On March 12, the state witnessed over 800 cases.

VACCINATION IS THE PATH TO HERD IMMUNITY, SAY EXPERTS

Door-to-door campaigns will help create awareness on benefits of vaccination: Doctors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

VACCINATION against Covid-19 is safe, and the sooner people take their shots, the faster the goal of herd immunity will be achieved, senior doctors say.

Vaccination is a process that will lead to herd immunity, said Dr Jagadish Hiremath, medical director at Ace Multi-specialty Hospital. "But this will take time and will require at least 70% of the population to get vaccinated," he said.

Member of the state's Critical Care Support Team, Dr Anoop Amarnath, said that people must accept the benefits of vaccination and get their shots to achieve herd immunity. "It is important to reach (large) volumes (of people). Acceptance for Covaxin has increased after the latest data about its efficacy rate was released. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa took Covaxin. This way, more people will see and want to accept the vaccine. Once we choose to get the vaccine, we will witness herd immunity, which will keep Covid away," he said.

Member of the state's expert committee on Covid, Dr Giridhara Babu, said that immunisation of the elderly must be completed within a time frame. "With senior citizens being vulnerable, the state should complete their vaccination at the earliest, (preferably) within the next two months. This way, they will be safer, and chances of severe infections will come down," he said.

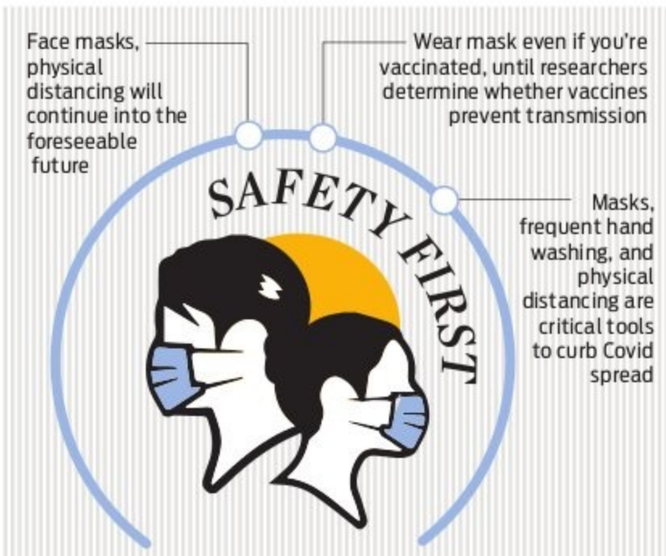
Dr Babu said the government must also seriously tackle hesitancy among the elderly in many districts. "In such districts, awareness needs to be carried out. Social media awareness will not help. District officials should go door-to-door and create awareness on the benefits of vaccination," he said.

Dr Ranjit Mohan, consultant for internal medicine, infectious diseases, at Manipal Hospitals said that vaccination not only protects the individual from Covid, but also reduces transmission within the community. "Also, it protects the elderly and those with comorbidities from severe complications and mortality," he said.

BBMP Commissioner N Manjunatha Prasad urged all eligible people to get their vaccine shots as it is the only way to reduce the number of cases and achieve herd immunity. He said that more awareness campaigns will be held on the importance of vaccination and the need to take it. He said RWAs, eminent people, and influencers will also be roped in to create awareness.

The vaccine requires variable durations of time to confer effective immunity in different individuals, sometimes up to a few weeks following vaccination. So masks are necessary even after vaccination. Following vaccination, a vigilant watch should be maintained for early as well as delayed side-effects. Masking and physical distancing should to be maintained as well

— Dr Ranjit Mohan, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Manipal Hospitals, Old Airport Road


Face masks, physical distancing will continue into the foreseeable future
Wear mask even if you're vaccinated, until researchers determine whether vaccines prevent transmission
SAFETY FIRST
Masks, frequent hand washing, and physical distancing are critical tools to curb Covid spread

70-80%

of the population need to be vaccinated for herd immunity

Covid-19 enters the body through the nasal cavities. The virus could be present in the nasal pharynx of a vaccinated person who could infect others when they cough or sneeze. Hence, they need to wear masks and maintain physical distance even though their individual risk is much lower

— Dr Giridhar Babu, member, state expert committee

There is no need for people to fear or doubt the efficacy of vaccines. Only through vaccination can we become a Covid-free nation. People should understand that even after getting the first dose they are still vulnerable to infection. It is only after the second dose that immunity starts to build up. Hence, it is extremely crucial to avoid visiting public places and continue wearing masks between this timeline.

— Dr Sunil Kumar K, senior consultant, interventional pulmonology, Aster CMI Hospital

St John's to start 62-bed geriatric care centre by next year-end

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ Bengaluru

TO meet the growing demand for geriatric care in the city, St John's Medical College Hospital is setting up a 67-bed geriatric centre, which is likely to be functional by the end of 2022.

The foundation stone for the facility was laid at a ceremony recently. The three-storeyed facility will come up on 72,000 sqft on the campus of St John's Hospital in Koramangala.

Speaking to The New Sunday Express, College Dean Dr George D'Souza said that unlike the home for the aged, the new facility will be a one-stop place to treat the elderly. The centre will run on four pillars — training, research, service and community engagement.

Dr D'Souza said there is a shortage of informal caretakers (like nurses) and a three-month training will be provided at the proposed centre to impart skills to individuals who will deployed through St John's Hospital to houses where care for the elderly is needed. The centre will also train formal caretakers (family members), he said, adding that research towards healthy ageing will also be conducted at the facility.

The hospital is looking to provide daycare, respite care and transitional care to the elderly through the centre. Caretakers' fatigue is a common occurrence, Dr D'Souza said, adding that the centre will come as a respite to caretakers who can enrol their elders at the facility for 1-2 weeks or even on a daily basis. At present, members of the community health department already visit old-age homes and provide them with care.

The centre also looks at engaging elders in apartments through resident welfare associations to give them resources to stay socially active and also to remain aware of personal healthcare.

Dr Pretesh R Kiran, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, at the hospital felt there is an increasing need for professionals who can give care for the elderly — a population that is ever growing in the city. The department is also reaching out to NGOs and elder care homes.

EXPRESS READ

'Address concerns of NIMHANS Covid staff'

BENGALURU: BBMP Commissioner N Manjunatha Prasad has directed Special Commissioner for health Rajendra Cholan to ensure that all financial issues of NIMHANS Covid staff are addressed and sought to know why they were withdrawing from services. He told Cholan and all BBMP officials to ensure there are no problems at Nimhans or any other centre or lab.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client **Mr. Shekar Bojanna** is intends to purchase the Schedule Property from Smt. S. Jayasree D/o. Sri. B. K. Subramanya and Smt. S. Jayanthi D/o. Sri. B. K. Subramanya who are the joint owners of the schedule property.

Any person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction, may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within **15 days** from the date of this publication failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the Piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant Site bearing **No.143**, having PID No.1529/1454/143/1526, situated at 4th Stage in the layout formed by the BEML Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Limited, in Sy No.90, 98/1, 143 to 146, 166/1, 166/2, 166/3, 167/1, 167/2, 168 to 172, 176/1, 176/2, 177, 221/1, 221/2, and 222 of Halagadevanahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, bangalore measuring East to West **50 feet**, North to South **89 + 84/2 feet**, totally measuring **4325 Sq feet**, comes under BBMP Ward No.160, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore.

Sd/- C. RAJAGOPAL, Advocate,
No.23, 1st floor, 5th Main, Hebbal, Bangalore-24,
Mob No-9060902494, Mob No-9845003737.

Britannia Industries Limited

BRITANNIA

Notice inviting for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Implementation as defined under PWM Rules, 2016.

Britannia Industries Limited (BIL) is in the process of inviting tender from the interested waste management agencies, PROs for the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) action plan across India, as defined under Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016.

Interested parties are requested to send their State/UTs wise quotations (Y2021-22), where ever they have proper ULB tie-up, consents.

Please send your quotations in a sealed envelope clearly indicating on the face of the envelope "Expression of interest for EPR implementation" and send the same to the below address within next 10 days from the date of publication.

Britannia Industries Limited
R&D Centre, Plot No. 23, Bidadi Industrial Area,
Bidadi - 562 109 Dist. Ramanagaram (Karnataka)

The aforesaid is only an invitation to express interest for participating in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation and BIL at all times reserves the right to adjourn / postpone / cancel the whole process and / or to reject any or all the tenders received, at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Chennai - 600036

Admission to M.Tech Programme 2021-22

Applications are invited for admission to M.Tech programme for the Academic Year 2021-22 commencing from July 2021, as per the following schedule:

Programme	Mode of Application	M.Tech Admission portal opens	Portal closes on the given last date	Website
M.Tech (Regular)	Online	19.03.2021	30.04.2021 (at 23.59 hrs.)	http://mtechadm.iitm.ac.in
M.Tech (Sponsored)				https://mtechspons.iitm.ac.in

Seats are reserved for SC/ST/OBC(Non-creamy layer)/ PwD /EWS (Economically Weaker Section) as per Government of India rules. For online application, information brochure and other details, please visit the above websites.

Date : 14.03.2021 Deputy Registrar (Courses)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WIND ENERGY
(Under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India)
Velachery - Tambaram Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai - 600 100.

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) is the technical arm of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India in the field of Wind Energy. **NIWE** plays a proactive role in the development of Wind Energy especially in Wind Resources Assessment, Testing/Type Certification of Wind Turbine Generators, Research & Development and Information & Training Services.

Applications are invited for one post of **Additional Director (Finance & Administration)** on **Deputation basis** in Level **12 of 7th CPC – [Rs.78800-209200]**

For detailed advertisement and application please refer our website: **http://niwe.res.in**

Last date for submission of application is **21** days from the date of publication in the Employment News

Assistant Director (F&A)

Invitation for bids

Sealed bids are invited through post or in person from interested parties for purchase of 28.34 ares of land in Sy.No. 893/3 (Part) of Elamkulam Villege, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam Dt. Bidders are required to enclose, along with their bids, a Demand Draft drawn on a Scheduled Bank branch at Ernakulam, favouring the undersigned for Rs. 25 Lakhs (Rs. Twenty five Lakhs only), as EMD. The time and last date for receiving bids is 1500 hrs on 22nd day of March 2021. Bids shall be opened on the same day at 1530 hrs in the presence of attending bidders if any. The detailed terms and conditions of the Sale can be had from the following address: The Executor Trustee, M.J.K Charities, VM Residency, Kochi-682038. Ph: 94471 65290 Email: kmm_academy @ yahoo.co.in

Date: 12-03-2021

Bank of Baroda

K G Road (11180) Branch, No.35, Devanga Tower, K G Road, BANGALORE- 560 009, Ph :080- 22262347/22263490 Email: vjkgro@bankofbaroda.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF CHAPTER III OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTERST ACT 2002

We **Bank of Baroda, K. G. Road Branch** issued demand notice under Section 13(2) read with Section 13(13) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Act 2002 to the following of you since you were not found in the said address/evading service of notices the Bank had sent the Demand Notice by RPAD as mentioned below to your respective address. The contents of the said notice are that you have committed defaults in payment of loans granted to you by our Bank. The details of the loan and amount outstanding are as under.

1. **Name and address of the Borrowers: M/s Maple India,** No 1091, SRNG Complex. OTC Road, Nagarathpet, opp Shardha Talkies, S P road cross, Bangalore-560002, **Mr. Chainrup Singhi, S**/o Mr. Tilok Chand Singhi Residing at Flat No E-708, E Block, 7th floor, Golden Magic Block, Brigade Gardenia Apartments, Sy No 112 to 114, Kothanur, Uttarahalli Hobli, J P Nagar, 7th Phase, Banaglore-560078.
GUARANTOR: Mrs. Meeta Singhi w/o Mr. Chainrup Singhi, Residing at Flat No E-708, E Block, 7th floor, Golden Magic Block, Brigade Gardenia Apartments, Sy No 112 to 114, Kothanur, Uttarahalli Hobli, J P Nagar, 7th Phase, Banaglore-560078.
Description of the Property : All that Residential Apartment bearing No E -708, in First Floor of 'Golden Magic' to be built in Schedule 'E' property and measuring 1400 square feet (130.06 square meters) of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and one Top covered car park, at the ground floor of ' Golden Magic' and the Apartment is bounded by: East by: Open Space, West by: Apt No E 707, North By: Open Space, South by: Corridor towards Apt No E 705.
A/C No : 73840500000006, Loan Amount : Rs. 2,00,00,000
Nature of Facility : Cash Credit
Amount outstanding as on 26.02.2021: **Rs. 2,19,50,770.47 /-** (Rupees Two Crore Nineteen Lakhs Fifty Thousand Seven hundred Seventy and paisa Forty Seven only) as on 26.02.2021 together with further interest thereon with effect from 27.02.2021 at the contractual rates together with costs, charges, other monies Until payment or realisation.
NPA Date: 27.02.2020 **Demand Notice Date: 26.02.2021**

You are hereby called upon to pay **Bank of Baroda**, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned hereabove failing which Bank of Baroda , will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act. against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the guarantors. The powers available to Bank of Baroda under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the borrower/guarantors/mortgager including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by Bank of Baroda shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also hypothecated/mortagaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section 13(2) of the said Act.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 26.02.2021

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda,
K. G. Road Branch, Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

No. EE/RWSS/Dvn/Smg/AE-II/JJM/E-proc/2866/2020-21 Date: 10.03.2021

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, item-war tenders are invited for the approved works of providing Functional Household Tap Connection for each house under Jal Jeevan Mission in Thirthahalli Taluk coming under the limits of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga District for the year 2020-21 from the contractors registered in Panchayat Raj Engineering Department for the period 2020-25 in Class 3 and above as per Standard Tender Documents for e-procurement of work KW-2 and 3. Those who are paying the cost of forms and EMD in e-payment may be paid through Credit/Debit cards.

1) The last date for submission of filled tender through online (e-procurement): **25.03.2021 upto 5.30 P. M.**
2) Technical bid opening Date : **27.03.2021 at 11.30 A M**
3) Financial bid opening Date : **29.03.2021 at 11.30 A. M.**
4) Period: **60 days.**

If the above dates happens to be a general holiday, the next day will be considered. Information on tender works and conditions may be obtained in the Department's website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sl No.	Indent No
1	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT33235

DIPR/SMG/No.73-03/zenkar/2020-21

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the people at large and more particularly in film trade that our client **Mr. C.V.SARATHI,** having residence at Nungambakkam, Chennai -34, has acquired the sole and exclusive remake, dubbing/adaptation rights, including the Sequels , Prequels, Titles, Themes, Story, Scenes, Sketches, Artwork and other contents thereof, and all the Characters therein including the Names, all Translations, and other versions thereof of the Malayalam language feature film **"DRISHYAM"**, Written and Directed by Jeethu Joseph, and Produced by **AASHIRVAD CINEMAS**, represented by Sole Proprietor M.J.Antony, in the language of Kannada ,titled as "DRISHYA" through an agreement / Purchase of Rights Agreement dated January 21st,2014 and is protected under Copyright Act,1957.

We wish to caution the general public that our client has neither appointed nor authorized any other person/ agency to remake/dub/adapt or produce Sequels or Prequels of Kannada feature film **"DRISHYA"** and any one dealing with the rights owned by our client would be doing so at his/her risk and cost and our client will not be responsible for any damages suffered by such person. Our client is currently in the Pre-production process of Kannada feature film **"DRISHYA-2"**, and public in general is advised not to be attracted or lured by any communication which solicits grant of any right for the said films to be made in Kannada language. Our client reserves his right to take action against anybody who deals with the said film **"DRISHYA-2"** in any derivatives or any literary/dramatic or artistic forms without the express permission of our client.

New Delhi
15/03/2021

Sd/- **P.VINAY KUMAR**
T.SUKESH ROY
Advocates, Supreme Court of India
E-25, LGF, South Extension Part-1, New Delhi-110049
Ph: 9895666979/9810455047

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that our client(s) intend to purchase the below-mentioned Schedule Property from **Smt. Naseera Begum W/o. Late Sri. Syed Mudeer Aga**, resident of Ramanagaram, governed by the personal laws of Sunni muslims, as applicable in India. She claims to be the absolute owner of the Schedule Property, having acquired the same under a Registered Release Deed dated 19-08-2019 which was executed in her favour by her children - **(1) Smt. Syeda Nourin Bano, (2) Smt. Syeda Kowser Aga, (3) Kum. Umai Salma,** and **(4) Sri. Syed Mohammed Aga**, and registered as Document No.RJN-1-02206-2019-20 of Book-I and stored in CD No.RJND477 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore, pursuant to the intestate demise of her husband.

Smt. Naseera Begum has represented to my clients that her husband **Sri. Syed Mudeer Aga** had purchased the below-mentioned Schedule Property alongwith his paternal uncles - (1) **Sri. Syed Ilyas Aga,** and **(2) Sri. Syed Imtiyaz Aga** from **Sri. M. A. Govindaraj S/o. Sri. M. Anantharamaiah** under a Registered Sale Deed dated 24-08-1972 which was registered on 06-09-1972 as Document No.2607/1972-73 in Volume No.934 of Book-I at Pages 78 to 80 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore.

Smt. Naseera Begum has further represented to my client that later, each of the said paternal uncles of **Sri. Syed Mudeer Aga** had conveyed his undivided 1/3rd share in the Schedule Property unto her husband by way of ***Hiba*** (oral gift), thereby making him the absolute owner of the Schedule Property, and the said ***Hibas*** were confirmed by them under two separate Declarations, both dated 25-06-1983.

Any person(s) / bank(s) / institution(s) / wakf(s) objecting to the proposed sale or asserting any manner of lawful right, title, interest or share over the Schedule Property or part thereof; or has received the said property or part thereof by way of ***Hiba*** or by any other mode permissible under the personal laws of the said owner, is/are required to lodge their objections/claims preferably with photo-copies of documents based on which they object to the said sale or stake their claim, by registered post so as to reach at the below-mentioned address within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of this publication, failing which our client(s) shall proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims of any nature thereon, and all claims even if existing, shall be deemed to have been waived off / abandoned.

Any objections/claims received after the said period, or personal representation(s) or communication by any other mode, shall not be considered / entertained under any circumstances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the property bearing Municipal No.340, PID No. 42-58-340 situated at Kuvempunagar / Bapujinagar, Mysore Road (formerly lands to the extent of 28.50 Guntas, being portion of Municipal No.340, Byatarayanapura Village) in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.42 (Bapujinagar Ward). The said property being of a slightly irregular shape totally measures about **31036.30 sq. feet** and is bounded on the:

EAST by : Property belonging to Sri. M.A. Venkatesh;
WEST by : Property bearing No.339 belonging to Sri. M. Anantharamaiah;
NORTH by : Property belonging to Sri. Chude Gowda;
SOUTH by : Bangalore - Mysore Road.

ABHAY KUMAR P. JAIN & V. RAMKUMAR, Advocates
LexJuris, No.202, PANCHARATHNA RACE-VIEW APARTMENTS
No.15/1, 6th Cross, Gandhinagar, BANGALORE- 560 009

Your Guide to Spicy Living

INDULGE
Every Friday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Suresh Kumar has rubbished rumours that schoolchildren would be promoted without exams. "Teachers are using local resources to hold assessments for their students. There is no proposal to declare summer holidays at this stage," the minister said

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

WE MAY AGREE TO DISAGREE, BUT OPPN MUST DEBATE IN ASSEMBLY

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

THE animosity between Opposition parties and the government in the state is taking a toll on debates and other regular business at the ongoing Assembly session. When Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who is also the finance minister, was presenting the budget, members of the principal Opposition party Congress walked out in an unprecedented manner. Home and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that the Opposition may agree to disagree, but they should participate in discussions and deliberations in the Assembly. "They have decided not to cooperate, but in spite of their noncooperation, our pro-people governance will continue," he told *TNSE*. Excerpts.

Is lack of understanding between the government and Opposition impacting debates in the Assembly?
They are not behaving like a responsible opposition and are going back on their word. At the previous Business Advisory Committee meeting, it was agreed by both the opposition and government that we will have a two-day discussion on "One Nation One Election" before the Budget was presented. Unfortunately, the opposition went back on its word, probably after instructions from their party high command. They just don't want any discussion.

Why discuss "One Nation One Election" in the state Assembly?
"One Nation One Election" will also affect the state and we have to debate, deliberate and formulate our views. We may agree to disagree, but they should debate. The Assembly is for debating and deliberating and they are misusing the forum as they are neither debating nor deliberating. This Opposition stand is uncalled for, anti-democratic and anti-people.

Will you try to take the Opposition into confidence?
We have done that during the previous BAC meeting, but the opposition has taken a sudden U-turn. Even on Budget day, I personally requested them to attend the session. But they have decided not to cooperate and hinder the reach of the government's initiatives. People are intelligent and they will see through all this. They also know that the opposition has the responsibility to raise people's voice, which is not being done. Despite noncooperation from the opposition, our pro-people governance will continue.

The Congress is accusing the government of misusing police to target opposition leaders and an MLA removed his shirt in the Assembly to protest...
The police have done their job and there is no question of the government being anti-Congress or anti-MLA. If their allegation is true, why is not happening in other parts of the state, and only at Bhadravati? What is the track record of the MLA and Congress?

The Assembly is for debating and deliberating and they (Opposition) are misusing the forum as they are neither debating nor deliberating
Basavaraj Bommai, Home Minister

Will the SIT probe all angles or only issues raised by Ramesh Jarkiholi?
The SIT has been given full freedom to probe and it will look at issues mentioned in Jarkiholi's letter, developments that have taken place after a complaint was filed at the Cubbon Park police station and various other dimensions that have come up. I have also clarified earlier that after the preliminary inquiry if need be, an FIR will be registered. I think it is too early to comment on the role of SIT.

Large quantities of gelatin sticks and other explosive materials are seized from different parts of the state. Is illegal transportation of explosives a serious security concern?
Previous governments were not serious about transportation and storage of explosives. But we are conducting audits and raids. That is why we are finding a lot of illegal explosives. Many mines are using explosives without licence, and we are booking cases. The time has come to take corrective action.

A meeting was held recently to discuss strategies to protect the state's interest in inter-state water disputes. Tamil Nadu's project to utilise surplus Cauvery water too was taken up. Is there any progress on that or is the government waiting for Tamil Nadu elections to get over?
We have nothing to do with Tamil Nadu polls. The Tamil Nadu government, without any clearance, laid the foundation stone for the project. Our CM has already written to the PM and Union Minister. We have decided to oppose the project before the Madurai court where a PIL has been filed by a TN farmer and we have not been made party in it. We will oppose it vehemently in the Supreme Court.

You have the experience of handling the Water Resources Department earlier. Is it true that you are keen on getting this portfolio that fell vacant after Ramesh resigned?
I am not keen on Water Resources or any other department. The CM has given me Home and Law and Parliamentary Affairs. My hands are full and I am trying to do justice to these departments.

CM to hold informal cabinet meeting tomorrow, may discuss House strategy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Chief Minister **BS Yediyurappa** will hold an informal meeting with his Cabinet ministers on Monday morning before the commencement of the Assembly session. Government sources said the meeting has been called at the Cabinet Hall at 10 am to discuss various issues, including the strategy to counter the Opposition, which is trying to put the government on the mat.

The Opposition had boycotted the session on the day the budget was presented. Congress members also refused to ask questions to ministers who had approached court seeking

injunction to restrain media from broadcasting or publishing any defamatory content against them.

"It is an informal meeting and the chief minister is likely to discuss the government's strategy during the session. He is also likely to direct ministers to compulsorily attend the session," said a minister. Apart from the Opposition, the government also faced embarrassment from some of its own members in the Assembly and the Council.

The CD controversy that is taking twists and turns, ongoing SIT probe into the case, concerns expressed by several ministers over political conspiracy to defame them, code of conduct that will come into force once the bypolls to three Assembly segments and Belagavi Lok Sabha seat are announced are likely to come up for discussion.

Sources said the chief minister may also discuss increasing Covid cases and steps to be taken.

State govt to submit report on quota to SC before March 23

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The State Government will give the report to SC after examining if 50% reservation is adequate and if demands of all communities are considered
Basavaraj Bommai, Home Minister

THE State Government will submit a report to the Supreme Court after an in-depth examination of all aspects related to protecting the Constitutionally-provided reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, Home Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, on Saturday.

After meeting Backward Classes Commission Chairman Jayaprakash Hegde, Backward Classes Welfare Department Principal Secretary Rashmi Mahesh, Advocate-General Prabhulinga Navadgi and legal experts, he said the Supreme Court is looking into the issue of increase in quota above the 50 per cent limit by the Maharashtra government and it has sought opinion from states. It is also transferring the case to a larger bench.

In the Indra Sawhney judgment, the SC has capped reservations at 50%. But state governments have the right to increase it by making some amendments and the court has sought states' views on all those aspects, he said. "The State Government will give the report to SC after examining if 50% reservation is adequate and if demands of all could be met," he said. The government will give its report to the SC before March 23.

Earlier, Bommai told *TNSE* that those who have already got reservation want more quota. "Those who are not in a particular category like 2A, want to be part of it. The SCs and STs want their quota increased. There is a lot of flux. All these actions are inter-dependent," he said.

DISHA SPEAKS

'TRP-seekers pronounced me guilty'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I kept asking myself what it felt like to be there at that particular moment in time, but I came back with no answers. I had coerced myself into believing that the only way I would be able to live through this was by tricking myself into thinking that this wasn't happening to me," she tweeted.

Disha has narrated her mental state and resolve to face the tough time she went through standing in the courtroom when, "desperately searching for my lawyers, I came to terms with the fact that I would have to defend myself. I had no idea whether there was legal assistance available, so when the judge asked me if I have anything to say, I decided to speak my mind. Before I knew it, I was sent to five days in police custody," the 22-year-old activist tweeted.

She narrated her ordeal that unfolded later. "It's no surprise that in the days that followed, my autonomy was violated, my photographs were splashed all over the news, my actions were pronounced guilty – not in the court of law, but on flat screens by the seekers of TRPs," she said.

Locked in a cell in Tihar jail, Disha "wondered when it became a crime to think the most basic elements of sustenance on this planet were as much mine as theirs? Why were millions paying the ultimate price for the greed of a few hundred?" she asked. "We are inching towards our own expiry if we did not act in time to stop the endless consumption and greed," she pondered.

Disha expressed her gratitude to the people who came out in her support and fought her case pro bono. "What of all those still in jail whose stories are not marketable? What of the marginalised that are not worthy of your screen time?" Disha posted. "It's been a tough time for the family. Disha hasn't slept well in the last one month. She is home today and resting," said lawyer Prasanna.

Border row: Sena's Raut wants all-party team visit to Belagavi

SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

AMID the ongoing border row between Karnataka and Maharashtra, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said that Marathi-speaking people in Belagavi are being harassed and demanded that an all-party delegation from Maharashtra visit the city to resolve the stand-off.

"If nobody listens to the grievances of Marathi-speaking population in Belagavi, the Maharashtra government will gather full force and take a delegation to the city. When the situation goes out of control, do not hold the Maharashtra government or Shiv Sena responsible. Do not run to Delhi for a solution," he warned the Karnataka government.

On Thursday's attack on Sena leader Prakash Shirolkar in Belagavi, Raut said party workers in Belagavi are under attack and the situation may worsen if this incident is ignored. He blamed Kannada Rakshana Vedike for the attack.

Blaming the Centre, he said it can see violence in West Bengal and places where BJP is contesting elections, but "turning a blind eye" to the developments in Belagavi. He demanded that the Centre resolve the row.

Tensions have been on the rise over the last couple of days. A day after the Marathi name board of the car owned by Shirolkar was blackened in Belagavi, Sena workers allegedly stopped lorries with Karnataka registration plates on NH 4 near Kagal in

Marathi activists pasting a 'Jai Maharashtra' sticker on a truck in Maharashtra on Saturday

Maharashtra on Saturday. They blackened Kannada boards of shops at Kolhapur. A few KSRTC buses were damaged and their name boards blackened.

KSRTC suspends Maha ops

The KSRTC temporarily suspended its operations to Maharashtra. Divisional Controller, Belagavi depot, MR Munji said, "97 buses ply to Kolhapur and other towns in Maharashtra each day. Vehicles coming from Maharashtra are also stopped from entering Belagavi," he said.

Senior Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, G Parameshwara, Eshwar Khandre, Ramesh Kumar and others at the party's 'Janakrosha Pratibhatane' convention at Shivamogga on Saturday | SHIMOGA NANDAN

At Shivamogga protest, Congress warns govt not to foist false cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

SENIOR Congress leaders, including opposition leader Siddaramaiah, KPCC president D K Shivakumar and former Speaker Ramesh Kumar, descended on Shivamogga on Saturday to take part in the 'Janakrosha Pratibhatane' to protest against cases registered against Congress workers in Bhadravati over a clash during a kabaddi tournament recently.

The leaders criticised the police department, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and district in-charge minister K S Eshwarappa for their alleged shoddy handling of the incident and arresting Bhadravati MLA B K Sangameshwar's son and others.

Siddaramaiah asked why no BJP worker was arrested when a counter-complaint was filed by the MLA's supporters.

The Congress will protest against the government and police if they try to foist false complaints and implicate Congress workers or elected representatives. "It is a democracy and the police have to maintain law and order. It is the government paying them salary and not the CM or Eshwarappa," he said.

Siddaramaiah cautioned the police department, saying the Congress will come to power in the state soon. "Then we will take stringent action ... be careful," he warned. Hitting out at the Centre for not taking steps to reduce fuel prices, he asked, "Where are Achche din."

Shivakumar said, "A case was filed against our leader Sonia Gandhi at one of the police stations in Shivamogga. I spoke to the CM, but minister Eshwarappa said he will not allow a B-report (closure) till he is in office." On the CD-gate, he said he will speak at an appropriate time.

BJP will hold district meets to bolster poll prospects

ENS @ Bengaluru

AHEAD of bypolls to three Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha segment, and taluk and zilla panchayat elections in the state, the BJP has decided to hold district-wise conventions from April.

District in-charge ministers, booth-level workers and newly elected gram panchayat members will attend the conventions, which according to party sources will not just strengthen the party at the grassroots level, but also help in the forthcoming elections.

Senior BJP MLC N Ravikumar said that the party has a full-fledged team in 58,000 booths across the state. "Each booth will have a president and we will give them a name board with the party symbol. They will then have to select 50 people in their respective booths to work for the party. They should meet frequently and work hard to get votes during any elections," he said. The party already has close to 30 lakh such members, he said. "Initiatives by the Centre and State Government, the new farm laws, budgets and other issues will be discussed at the conventions," he said, adding it will help reach out to people.

TECH ROUTE

Ilkal, Mysuru Silk, Udupi sarees just a click away soon

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

IT is good news for weavers, who continue to reel under the effects of Covid. The Department of Textiles and Handlooms is coming up with its own e-commerce website and mobile app, where one can place orders for sarees that are unique to Karnataka directly from weavers at a lesser price.

The state has around 54,000 handloom and 1.4 lakh powerloom weavers, mostly concentrated in Belagavi, Bagalkot, Chitradurga, Vijayapura, Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara districts. Mysuru silk, Ilkal, Molakalmuru, Udupi, Guledghad and Navalgund sarees have got their Geographical Indications (GI) tag. Though these sarees are of good quality, have good brand value and possess the GI tag, it is the middlemen who make the money and not the struggling weavers. To address this, the Department is planning to develop an e-commerce platform, a department source said.

A few weavers, who are good financially, have tried selling their products on Amazon and other big e-commerce websites, but the response has not been up to the mark. "We are now developing the in-house website and mobile application that allow weavers to upload pictures of their sarees and other products directly. It works similar to other e-commerce websites. Once a customer buys a product, a message is sent directly to the weaver, who can dispatch the saree to the customer's doorstep," the sources said.

This will benefit both weavers and customers, as weavers can sell without paying any commission, while customers can get the product at a lower price. The Department is conducting a market survey, collecting initial data of weavers and working on delivery partners.

The government is also planning to open big showrooms for these products in other cities, including Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad. "If everything goes well, these sarees can be even be sent abroad," the sources added.

Earlier, Textiles Minister Shrimanth Patil had proposed to procure six lakh sarees from weavers, at prices ranging from ₹500 to ₹600 per saree and gift two each to three lakh Covid warriors. The cost estimate of ₹36 crore was sent to the Finance Department, but it was rejected twice, said sources from the minister's office.

A 28-year-old man was arrested by Puttenahalli police after he was caught red-handed recording the newly-released Kannada film 'Robert' on his mobile phone at a theatre on Saturday. The accused, Madhu K B, hails from Ramanagara.

WORST COVID EFFECT YET? CHILDREN DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL IN DROVES

TEAM TNIE

WHAT is the worth of a welfare state if its children cannot attend school to get educated in the formative years of their lives? This question is now bothering policy-makers as they anticipate a big problem in ensuring quality human resources in the future. The seeds for such a worrisome scenario are currently being sown through a disturbing trend of children dropping out of schools.

The increasing dropout rate, mainly of students from classes 6 to 10, is being blamed on the worsening financial condition of their parents due to the pandemic's impact. The problem is being reported across Karnataka and the country. But the State Government has only now begun conducting surveys to understand its magnitude. The State has 78,424 schools (primary and secondary), of which 22,419 are in urban areas and 56,005 in rural areas, admitting over 80 lakh students.

Various businesses and daily wage jobs came to a standstill during the lockdown. But post-unlock phases, children from higher primary and high schools, and from families working in informal sectors are chipping in to help their parents earn some extra income. Not receiving public distribution system (PDS) quotas under the mid-day meal scheme, many school-children started working alongside their parents and even taking up odd jobs to financially support the family.

Hundreds of students from Naregal, Annigeri, Kotumachagi, Mulgund, Kanvi, Harti, Lakkundi from Gadag district are coming to Gadag city in search of jobs. They stand at a place in the bus-stand or old DC Office Circle, where contractors come and offer them jobs for the day. Some contractors also visit villages and offer job contracts for a month or two. Those of school-going age lap up these jobs, while sacrificing school education. Not allowed jobs under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as they are underage, they take up whatever jobs come their way.

The problem has only aggravated because of the pandemic and the lockdown. In Udupi, the issue of school dropouts has been haunting the district administration for nearly a decade as there has been a surge in labourers and their families from North Karnataka coming to coastal cities for their livelihood. While some ensured that their kids got admitted to government schools, many migrant workers at Malpe fisheries harbour did not. The situation got worse during the lockdown as even those parents who had got their wards admitted to schools pulled them out because of lack of income. Unable to provide for online classes due to financial constraints, they forced their children to drop out of schools. Now, a survey to know the exact number of dropouts is underway in Udupi district.

In Mysuru, while several NGOs and organisations took up independent surveys and studies, the one done by the School Education Programme of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement found that 26 per cent of students in Mysuru were employed as daily wagers during the lockdown of the total sample size of 1,572 students in Bengaluru, Dharwad and Mysuru districts.

In Koppal taluk, 34,123 students got admitted to sixth to tenth standards for 2020-21, but 9,233 are yet to resume schooling. The situation is no different in other taluks of the district, official sources said.

In Dakshina Kannada, the Campus Front of India (CFI), a student organisation, has started a state-wide campaign called 'zero dropout', especially for SSLC students. Its members visited schools and houses of students in Vittla, Bantwal, Puttur, Sullia and Mangaluru taluks to ascertain the number of students who had dropped out. "As per the data provided by Block Education Officers in these taluks, more than 100 SSLC students have dropped out. In Belthangady, we are yet to conduct the campaign. The reasons for dropping out of schools are financial and health issues, migration and lack of interest among parents and students," says Mohammed Sadiq, member of State Committee, CFI.

Thyagam Harekala, a teacher at Shri Ramakrishna Aided High School, Harekala in Mangaluru taluk, says many students are irregular to school and they are as good as dropouts. "They come from rural areas. During the lockdown, as schools were closed, they started working at construction sites, shops, farms and took up odd jobs. They earn about Rs 500 a day. Since attendance is not compulsory, we cannot force them to come to school. Some students have not attended classes for more than a month. The situation is the same in almost all schools," he says.

MP Jnanesha, Block Education Officer, Bantwal taluk in Dakshina Kannada district, says there are 74 SSLC students in his taluk who are out of school. "We have identified them and efforts are on enroll them," he says.

The Public Instruction and Panchayat Raj departments have started a house-to-house joint survey to identify students up to the age of 18 who have dropped out of school. They are discovering that many students, especially in rural areas, have discontinued their studies due to financial issues and migration. The Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Malleswamy, says, "Once the survey, which is only 60 per cent completed, is ready, we can get the exact data of students belonging to different categories who have been left out," he says.

In Kalaburagi district, of the total 2,55,840 students enrolled from 6th to 10th standard, only 40,344 students (15.85 per cent) were attending classes in March this year.

In 2020-21, in Kodagu, 77,284 students enrolled, but officials say the department cannot estimate the number of dropouts unless all the classes begin and physical attendance is made compulsory. "Earlier, if a student did not attend classes for seven days, he/she would be considered a dropout. But we cannot calculate it under the current situation and we are not sure of the exact number of dropouts," says Kodagu DDPI Peregrine S Machado.

Renni D'Souza, president, Dakshina Kannada Child Welfare Committee, says, "The closure of schools has had an adverse effect on the children as it has affected their learning capacity, which is why they hesitate to go back to schools. There are chances of an increase in child labour too. The influence of family income has also affected the children in dropping out as many parents have lost jobs."

In a robust field study conducted by the Azim Premji University in January this year, disturbing findings due to loss of learning during the pandemic were revealed. For those dropping out of school, it is probably worse and they may never rejoin schools, it stated.

The loss of learning comprises loss of regular curricular learning that children acquired in schools and also students 'forgetting' the abilities learnt in the previous class. The study reveals the extent and nature of the 'forgetting/regression' among 16,067 primary school children in 1,137 schools in 44 districts across five states, including Karnataka.

"Covid-19 has battered India and the world. The loss of education compounded by the phenomenon of academic regression is one such significant effect," says Anurag Behar, Vice-Chancellor, Azim Premji University.

Inputs from: Pearl Maria D'Souza/Bengaluru; Karthik KK/Mysuru; Divya Cutinho/Mangaluru; Prakash Samaga/Udupi; Prajna GR/Madikeri; Mahesh Goudar @Bagalkot/Vijayapura; Raghu Koppar / Gadag; Ramkrishna Badseshi/ Kalaburagi; Mallikarjun Hiremath/ Dharwad; Tushar Majukar/Belagavi

'Govt must address learning loss'

Consolidated efforts were being made to address child labour, child marriage and bonded labour over the years. But, this one year has taken away what was done in three decades. Lakhs of children in the state have a difficult time and there are chances they may not return to school ... especially girls. One year's loss is big for learning, especially for children coming from disadvantaged, subaltern communities. Those who came to the mainstream have to go back. Net enrolment in secondary education for those completing Class 8 is 58 per cent, which means 42 out of 100 children are not entering Classes 9 and 10. The response from the department and minister, however, seems that they are keen on conducting exams than filling up the learning loss. There should have been a blueprint on addressing this loss from June 2021, but I can't see such a roadmap. The National Education Policy 2020 also iterates that foundation learning is important and it recognises there is a serious learning crisis. This crisis has gone from bad to worse. Where is the plan to address it? The (education) department has to come with a concrete plan.

Dr Niranjanaradhya VP, Senior Fellow and Programme Head, Universalisation of Equitable Quality Education Programme

Agencies can block e-mail access: Court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE judge made these observations while dealing with the case of Virendra Khanna, an accused in the Sandalwood drug case.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said investigating agencies can obtain a search warrant if the accused refuses to provide details or gave false information. The investigating agency will be at liberty to block access to the e-mail accounts once opened, by changing the password, so that no one else, apart from the designated officers, would have access to the smartphone, computer or e-mail accounts.

"If the accused does not cooperate by not providing login credentials despite a notice being served on him subsequent to the search warrant, the court can direct the service provider/manufacturer of the device or e-mail service provider, to open it based on an application from the prosecuting agency. In case the prosecution is not facilitated in this regard, then the court, based on an application filed in this regard, can permit the investigating officer to hack into the smartphone, computer or e-mail account", the judge said. If the agency is unsuccessful in hacking into the device or e-mail account, then it will be free to rely on the notice.

"The Investigating officer has free access to all data, not only on the device(s), but also on any cloud service that may be connected to it. The use of such data during investigation will not amount to violation of the right to privacy and will come within the exceptions carved out in the Supreme Court judgment in the Justice Puttaswamy case," said Justice Govindaraj.

SIT tracks down journalist, prime accused in CD-gate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday tracked down a journalist from Sira in Tumakuru district, the prime suspect in the case of the controversial CD involving former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi.

On Friday, the SIT had questioned five people involved in the case and based on information they provided, the SIT visited the journalist's house and questioned family members to ascertain his whereabouts.

Police sources said that the people involved in the case had links with a techie who edited the CD to upload it on to social media by hacking a Russian server. Earlier, it was said that the video was uploaded from Russia but technical analysis revealed that a server was hacked. A team also searched the techie's house in Devanahalli and questioned his family. Financial transactions were allegedly carried out through the accounts of the five people questioned on Friday and the police found several lakhs of rupees in their bank accounts on Saturday.

"We have also gathered the video statement of the woman in the video who shared the video with a journalist. We are tracking her movements and looking for her in neighbouring states. We may consider her statement as part of the preliminary investigation," a police officer said. SIT officers are looking for suspects in Bidar, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Attempted suicide four times: Woman in video

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SHE further said, "I have been defamed after the video footage went viral. People are approaching my parents at my hometown and questioning them about the incident. Upset over this, my parents tried to kill themselves twice, while I attempted to kill myself at least four times. I have been humiliated on all news channels and social media. Nobody is with us and we don't have any political support. Ramesh Jarkiholi, who promised me a job, did all those things and got the video released," she alleged.

"I do not have any political backing or protection," she said and requested for protection. However, in her video, she did not give out her location.

Jarkiholi, in his complaint, has not mentioned any names, but has demanded a thorough probe.

Later, speaking to reporters in the city, Jarkiholi said, "As per legal advice, I have not mentioned the names of people who are directly involved. This is the beginning and I am going to fight the case till it is taken to a logical end."

ತೋಟ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ಮಾರಾಟ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿ.,
ಎಪಿಎಂಸಿ ಆವರಣ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ – 577213

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: TUMCOS/CIVIL/2020-2021 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–03–2020

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಂಘದ ಇಂದನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ (ಪೆಟ್ರೋಲ್ ಬಂಕ್) ನೆಲಹಾಸು ಹಾಕಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. **Tender Number:** DOC/2020-21/OW/WORK_INDENT408. **Tender Title:** Tenders for construction of Flooring work at Tumcos Fuel Station, Channagiri. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ 31–03–2021 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ http://www.tumcos.com ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ.

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ತುಮ್‌ಕೋಸ್ ಲಿ., ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ

Maharashtra Housing Development Corporation Limited (MHDC)
3rd Floor, Room No. 32, Sakhar Bhavan, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021 **Tel.:** 022-4044 1000, **Website:** www.mahahousing.mahaonline.gov.in

Notice For Invitation of Expression of Interest For Empanelment of Construction Agency/ Firm Detailed EoI Notice

Maharashtra Housing Development Corporation Limited (MHDC) invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from reputed, experienced, Technically & Financially Sound Companies/ Firms/ Contractors / Developers/ Builders (hereafter called Agency /Firm) for empanelment for construction of houses/buildings ranging from single storied to multi storied using Conventional or Alternative / Innovative / Rapid construction technologies on Design and Built basis. Financial bid shall be invited only from Empaneled Agency /Firm from project to project basis as decided by the MHDC. Interested Agency /Firm having experience of design and construction using Conventional, approved alternate / rapid construction technology / technologies shall upload their Expression of Interest. The EoI shall be opened online by the MHDC/ in the presence of Interested Agency /Firm.

The details of Criteria for selection along with instructions to the Agency/Firm can be downloaded from the website **https://mahatenders.gov.in & https://mahahousing.mahaonline.gov.in**

The MHDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EoI without assigning any reason thereof.

Section	Technical
Tender Notice No. & Date	01/2020-2021, Date 12/03/2021
Subject	Empanelment of Agency /Firm for Construction of Housing Building using Conventional, Approved Alternate/Rapid construction Technologies on Design Built basis for Affordable Housing Project in the State of Maharashtra.
Downloading of blank Tender form Website	13/03/2021, 11.15 AM Till 28/03/2021 up to 03.00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	19/03/2021 at 03.00 PM At MHDC Mumbai, Office
Last date of Online submission of EOI	29/03/2021 upto 03.00 PM
Opening of EOI	30/03/2021 at 04.00 PM if possible (Pre-Bid queries shall reach this office on or before 18.03.2021 till 03:00 PM on mhdc.mahahousing@maharashtra.gov.in)
Blank Tender Fees to be paid in DD Form before the date of opening of tenders	Rs. 23,600/- Non-Refundable (Inclusive of GST)
Website for Downloading & Uploading	https://mahatenders.gov.in

NOTE: Any addendum/corrigendum /sale date extension in respect of above tender shall be issued only on website **https://mahatenders.gov.in** only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Bidders are therefore requested to regularly visit the said website to keep themselves updated.

Sd/-
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MHDC)

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POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited,** under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued Demand Notice dated under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s)/Legal heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and / or realization.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s) Legal heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Description of Immovable property / Secured Asset
1.	Mr. M Babu (Borrower) and Mrs. R Kavitha (Co-Borrower)	Loan Account No. 627725031 Rs.34,71,090/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Ninety only) Due as on 30.09.2020	19.10.2020	13.03.2021 (Physical)	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Northern Portion of Site No.25, Katha No.176/2, formed in Property No.180/1, the layout known as " Bachappa Layout", situated at Mahadevapura Village, K R Puram Hobli, eaelier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, presently under the Administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West on the Northern side 47 feet and on the Southern side 47.5 feet and North to South 30 feet, tottaly, measuring about 1417.5 Sq.Feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface is **bounded on the: East by:** Private Property, **West by:** 30 Feet Road, **North by:** Site No.26, **South by:** Remaining Portion of same Site No.25.
2.	Mr. Chakraborty Ajay (Borrower)	Loan Account No. 621297079 Rs.38,63,311/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Three Hundred and Eleven Only) Due as on 31.10.2019	12.12.2019	13.03.2021 (Symbolic)	All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment Bearing No. 1025, situated in ANDRINA (building no. 01) Tower 1 on 2 Floor/ Level, in 'PRESTIGE LAKESIDE HABITAT', developed on non agricultural converted vacant land bearing Sy. No.176/1, 178/2, 178/3, 179, 180/1, 180/2, 181/1, 181/2, 181/3, 181/4, 182, 183/1, 183/3, 183/2, 183/4, 184/1, 184/2, 186/1, 187/2, 188/2, 188/5A, 188/5B, 189/1, 190/1, 19/2, 190/5 (old No.190/1), 190/6, (old No.190/1), 191/1, 191/3, 191/4, (old No.191/1,) 192/1, 195/1, 196, 197/1, 197/2, 197/3A, 198/1, 198/2, 199, 200/2, 203/1, 203/2, 204/1, 204/2, 204/3, 204/4, 204/5, 204/6, 204/7A, 204/7B, 205/1, 205/2, 205/3, 205/4, 205/5, 207/1, 207/2, 207/3, 207/4, 207/5, 207/6, 208, 210/1, 210/3, 210/4, 210/6B, 210/7A, 7B, 210/8, 210/9, 210/10, 210/11, 210/12, 210/13B, 210/13A, 210/15A, 210/15, 210/16, 210/18, 210/1, 211/1, 211/2, 211/6A, 211/7, 220/1, of Gunjur Village and Sy.No.28/5, 28/11, 28/13, 28/14, 28/16 of Balagere Village having 905 sq.ft. built up area inclusive of proportionate share in all the common area such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other common areas with proportional undivided share , right and title on the land where the building is constructed with one car parking space in the basement situated at Gunjur and Balagere Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore East, Taluk, Bangalore.
3.	Mr.Sivanarayan Sundararajan (Borrower) and Mrs. Indu Ramadasa Pai (Co-Borrower)	1) Loan Account No. 628886337 Rs.1,20,88,532/- 2) Loan Account No. 629379970 Rs.5,04,448/- totally accruing Rs.1,25,92,980/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty Only) Due as on 31.12.2019	07.01.2020	13.03.2021 (Symbolic)	All that piece and parcel of Residential Apartment bearing 'Flat No. 14221', situated in FIGARO (Building No. 06) Tower on the 14 Floor/ Level-22, in a residential development known as 'PRESTIGE LAKESIDE HABITAT', having1486 sq.ft. of carpet areaand 2134 sq.ft. of super built up area with proportional UDS (undivided share) and one car parking in the basement developed on property having Sy No.176/1, 178/2, 178/3, 179, 180/1, 180/2, 181/1, 181/2, 181/3, 181/4, 182, 183/1,183/3, 183/2, 183/4, 184/1, 184/2, 186/1, 187/2, 188/2, 188/5A, 188/5B, 189/1, 190/1 190/2, 190/5 (OLD NO.190/1) 190/6, (OLD NO.190/1) 191/1, 191/3, 191/4,(OLD NO.191/1) 192/1, 195/1,196,197/1,197/2,197/2, 197/3A, 198/1, 198/2, 199, 200/2, 203/1, 203/2, 204/1, 204/2, 204/3, 204/4, 204/5, 204/6, 204/7A, 204/7B, 205/1, 205/2, 205/3, 205/4, 205/5, 207/1, 207/2, 207/3,207/4, 207/5, 207/6, 208, 210/1,210/3,210/4,210/6B, 210/7A, 7B, 210/8, 210/9, 210/10,210/11, 210/12, 210/13B, 210/13A, 210/15A, 210/15B, 210/16, 210/18, 210/1 (210/19) 211/1,211/2, 211/6A, 211/7, 220/1, of Gunjur village and Sy No.28/5, 28/11, 28/13, 28/14, 28/16 of Balagere Village situated on land measuring 98 Acres 35.20 Guntas both in VarthurHobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.

With further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realization.
However, since the Name of Borrower(s) Legal heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s) mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) mentioned herein above in particular and to the public in general that the Authorized Officer of **HDFC** have taken Possession of the immovable property (ies) /secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/them under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above.
The Borrower(s) mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable property(ies) /Secured Asset and any dealings with the said Immovable property(ies)/ secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd.**
Borrower(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.
Copies of the Panachanma drawn and Inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is /are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 14.03.2021

Sd/-
Authorized Officer Of HDFC LIMITED
Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

"Don't allow your wounds to transform you into someone you are not

Paulo Coelho
Writer

VacciNation: GAPS VEX ROLLOUT OF THE JAB

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

VacciNations! The world is betting on and hoping for a V-accine shaped recovery, to resume lives and restore livelihoods. March 16 will mark two months since the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccinations in India. How is India doing? The answer, as with all data, depends on how the numbers are interrogated.

On the face of it India ranks third with 28.2 million or 282 lakh total doses administered. The United States which began its rollout a month earlier has crossed the 100 million-mark and President Joe Biden is promising a July 4 normalcy. China, second on the ranking table ahead of the EU as a bloc, has administered 52.2 million doses. In terms of doses per 100 persons or percentage of population vaccinated though India trails many countries and has a lot of ground to cover.

How has India done in terms of the target set? The government has set a target of vaccinating 300 million or 30 crore people — at two doses that would be 600 million shots — by the end of July. Its average daily run rate in the first 56 days is just over 5 lakh doses. Government data shows 2 million doses were administered on Friday. Even if one assumes a daily strike rate of 2 million doses, at the current rate achieving the target in the remaining 140 days demands ramping up of speed.

Consider the emerging picture from data points available on the dashboard of *cowin.gov.in* to appreciate the gap. On Friday March 12 the planned vaccination capacity stood at 54.15 lakh whereas total doses administered was 20.53 lakh. Effectively less than half of the planned capacity is utilised. What makes the capacity to utilisation conundrum worse is that registrations for vaccinations in a seven-day period have yo-yoed from a peak of 19.7 lakh to 3.5 lakh.

The causation of the gap between the need and the jab is located in the confluence of design inadequacies in policy, uneven implementation across states and insufficient evangelism. In his path-breaking book, 'Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness' Nobel laureate Richard Thaler makes a pertinent point: "A choice architect has the responsibility for organizing the context in which people make decisions."

The government is the 'choice architect' in the design of the vaccination rollout and it must organise and reorganise the context. While global consensus is built around first protecting the vulnerable and elderly, studies do suggest that a restrictive and slower rollout could result in room for rise of newer mutant strains. Ergo the yawning gap between planned capacity and actual vaccination calls for real-time modifications in classification of deemed priorities.

The obvious measure is to expand the ambit of age to include those above 45 or 50 years of age for vaccination to enable acceleration and protection of a larger population from the virus. The social context is critical. Think of it as 'skin in the plan'. Those above 45/50 years of age would have children and aged parents at home. The need to hold on to jobs, attend to responsibilities makes them ideal to accelerate the rollout and present a demonstration effect. Indeed the original plan had 50 plus folks in the phase two of the rollout. Why not open up centres on specific days or at specific hours, maybe as walk-in registrations, for 50 plus folks to start with? With traction and acceleration the window could be further widened to include younger folks.

There is also the context of need. Students have missed schooling for over a year and arguably the teachers who need to be vaccinated for schools to reopen would be under 60 and this would need to be done before the term starts. Secondly, almost every business chamber in the country has pleaded for opening up vaccination so the employees could be vaccinated. This would improve utilisation of current capacity and also enable expansion of private health care participation in the process and reduce the physical and fiscal burden on the government.

Unlike other countries India does not suffer from inadequate production capacity — and is adding new ones, including the one-shot J&J vaccine, to the output list. India's vaccine diplomacy has justifiably earned praise. Yet the stark factoid is that it has exported more doses (481 lakh) than it has administered at home calls for a review of its vaccination rollout plan.

India has a limited window to rebuild its economy on the opportunities the pandemic has unveiled. Much rests on the success of vaccine rollout – And there is no disputing the challenges of scale and complexity India faces. It is true that the formal sector of the economy is recovering but it is equally true that large parts of the economy are yet closed or are operating below potential resulting in retrenchment of jobs and opportunities for millions.

The pandemic is far from over. It is easy to be lulled into complacency — the surge in cases, in states such as Maharashtra, illustrates the consequence of systemic stasis. India can scarcely afford another wave — it will have deleterious socio-economic consequences.

PINARAYI IS ABOUT TO BREAK A RECORD

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

KERALA is famous for electing the Left Democratic Front and United Democratic Front by rotation. That tradition is going to be broken. I join those who predict that Pinarayi Vijayan will win the coming election and stay on in office, making him the first Kerala chief minister to enjoy a continuum of power.

And that will be good for the state. No chief minister has blossomed the way Vijayan has. He is hardly the communist party boss he started out as. He is now a leader of all people, easily the best chief minister in the country. (There are some laughable surveys that mention Yogi Adityanath as the best chief minister. Poor guy. Can't even ensure basic law and order in his state.)

Pinarayi Vijayan's uniqueness has already attracted world attention. The research think tank, Public Affairs Centre, picked Vijayan's Kerala for the Best Governed State Award for three consecutive years from 2016. The state ranked first in the UN's Sustainable Development Index in 2018. This kind of recognition drew attention to some unique features of Kerala. The *Apna Ghar* project that provided quality housing for migrant labour was an example. Another was the IT Park scheme that attracted 165 companies providing 50,000 jobs. Public schools in Kerala now have hi-tech classrooms. At the social level, non-Brahmins and Dalits can be seen working as priests in temples. No wonder Vijayan has found admirers beyond the boundaries of his party.

Home Minister Amit Shah stands out as a sulky, bad-tempered critic. On his latest visit to the state, Shah spoke about gold and dollar smuggling cases and their suspected links with the Left government. The Customs Department was said to have told the High Court that the accused in the cases "has made shocking revelations against the Chief Minister and the Assembly Speaker and some ministers".

The Chief Minister did not seem at all intimidated by the charges levelled by the powerful Home Minister. Describing Shah's campaign in the state "an insult to Kerala", Vijayan posed some questions of his own. "Isn't a known *Sangh Parivar* person one of the main conspirators of gold smuggling in diplomatic baggage?" he asked. To drive the point home, he further asked: "Isn't Thiruvananthapuram airport entirely under central government? How did this airport become a hub of gold smuggling since BJP came to power? Amit Shah must answer."

There was no answer from Amit Shah. No one gave any answer to some truly embarrassing questions Pinarayi came up with. "Weren't *Sangh Parivar* people appointed intentionally to various posts at Thiruvananthapuram airport to facilitate gold smuggling? Wasn't the direction of the probe changed when it was pointing towards your own people? Wasn't it to derail the probe that officials including Joint Commissioner of Customs were transferred overnight? Has the person who sent the gold been questioned in eight months?" No one was surprised that no answers came.

Amit Shah should have known that Kerala is unlike other states. And also that Pinarayi Vijayan is unlike other chief ministers. If he had understood those basics, he would not have been exposed so badly in Thiruvananthapuram. Vijayan needed only a few words to show that the mighty Shah was no match to him

Amit Shah has a well deserved tough-man image. His portfolio gives him enormous powers. His record reinforces the impression that those who offend him would be sorry for it. That is why we hear no one challenging him or trying to confront him. That is also why Shah is often more aggressive than he needs to be. Where a grass-mower would do, he roars in like a JCB.

He should have known that Kerala is unlike other states. And also that Pinarayi Vijayan is unlike other chief ministers. If he had understood those basics, he would not have been exposed so badly in Thiruvananthapuram. Vijayan needed only a few words to show that the mighty Shah was no match to him. He said: "I have not been jailed for kidnapping... Your culture is not my culture." Enough. Not another word was needed.

Pinarayi Vijayan would be a useful case-study for political leaders. He was a communist who would have got drowned in any other state; he survived in Kerala because communism is not feared there. Communism itself underwent some changes in Kerala and Vijayan evolved into a supra-party leader. He brought real, palpable progress to his state and its people. Once upon a time only communist cadre recognised his leadership. Now all of Kerala applauds him. Congress leaders continue to attack him, knowing that their bravery has little effect. Vijayan has won the approval of all. He will continue as the head of government.

QUAD – AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

OPINION

PINAK RANJAN CHAKRAVARTY
The author is a former Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; currently he is a visiting fellow at ORF, Delhi

THE French poet and novelist Victor Hugo had said, "Nothing else in the world, not all the armies are as powerful as an idea whose time has come." Has the Quad, short for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, transformed into an idea whose time has come? The recent summit meeting of the four leaders of Australia, India, Japan and the USA indicates that the Quad is gathering some momentum. Undoubtedly, the Quad is a direct result of China's heavy handed and aggressive territorial expansionist policy around its periphery in the South China Sea (SCS), Ladakh and Hong Kong. China's professed claim that almost the whole of SCS falls within its territorial waters was a blatant land grab and a looming threat on crucial sea lines of communication. Additionally, China's constant threat of invading Taiwan and its humongous multi-continent strategic connectivity project, the Belt and Road Initiative [BRI], are clear signals of China's belief that its time has come to assert itself, as the next superpower, challenge the USA for supremacy, browbeat all countries and impose a China-centric international order.

The Quad idea emerged in 2007 when the leaders of the four countries met separately during the ASEAN Regional Forum. This was the first summit consultation which was dubbed later as Quad 1.0, an initiative whose roots go back to Japan's PM Shinzo Abe's idea, aired in 2006, of forming a group of democracies to deal with the growing challenge of a rising China in the Asia-Pacific region. The Quad also harks back to the ad hoc Tsunami Group of these four countries, as a disaster management initiative in 2004. The idea of this partnership between democratic nations obtained traction when Indian PM Manmohan Singh and Abe called for an alliance between democracies in the Asia-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific nomenclature changed when President Trump renamed it to Indo-Pacific, much to China's dismay. Australia and the USA got on board on Quad in 2007. China pushed back aggressively and targeted Australia which turned lukewarm, given its huge economic stake in economic ties with China. There followed a decade of fudging till China again bared its teeth. The first ministerial meeting, held in September 2019 was a direct result of China's aggressive behaviour and the Covid pandemic that it had unleashed on the world.

The announcement of the second summit meeting has drawn a guarded response from China which has "hoped" that the meeting will be "conducive to regional peace and, stability and prosperity" and any regional cooperation architecture should follow the principle of peaceful development and win-win cooperation. "We hope the relevant countries will keep in mind the common interests of the regional countries uphold the principles of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation and do things that are conducive to regional peace stability and prosperity rather than the opposite," said the official spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry. As always, China's tone changes like a chameleon changes its colours. But that has always been a part of China's toolkit. If there is one reason for the Quad acquiring greater geopolitical traction, it is clearly China's aggressive behaviour.

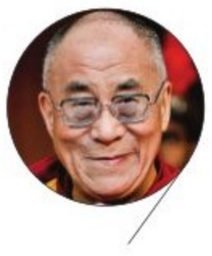
China has also bristled at the announcement that the Quad will cooperate in increasing India's vaccine production for supply to Asian and African countries. China has used vaccine diplomacy to recover lost ground and regain trust that it had lost because of its opaque and evasive response at the initial stage to the Covid pandemic, first detected in Wuhan. Meanwhile, neighbouring Japan has announced assistance for developing cold chains, refrigerators and transportation for countries in need. This assistance programme seeks to counter China's vaccine diplomacy. The USA has adopted a "me first" approach to vaccines, insisting on vaccinating Americans first and selling only the surplus. China's reaction has again been guarded. It has supported international vaccine cooperation and rejected vaccine nationalism and politicisation and highlighted its effort to produce 17 different vaccines and supplying them to over 60 countries.

The Quad's potential to re-engineer geopolitical realignments can have significant impact on China's relations with Asian countries, particularly the three countries in the Indo-Pacific. The Biden Administration seems to be moving towards energising the Quad, having decided that China is already a significant challenger and competitor, as well as a security threat to the USA and her allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has named China the "biggest geopolitical test of the 21st century".

While the Biden Administration has continued with President Trump's approach to China, it seeks to nuance its methods, particularly in its stress on multilateral approaches to dealing with China. President Biden has made some controversial foreign policy moves by targeting Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince. Nor has his Administration made any headway in re-negotiating the nuclear deal (JCPOA) with Iran. President Biden has several domestic challenges, both economic and social to overcome, without which his foreign policy may well run out of steam. Military strength is not enough to challenge China. Economic issues like supply chains will also require re-working.

Media leaks in India about approval to certain Chinese investments may well be signals to China that India may roll back restrictions but this will be linked to China's restoring the status quo along the LAC in Ladakh. There is no guarantee that even if the status quo is restored, China will adhere to agreements, given its disregard of bilateral agreements on the LAC. The onus is on China to rebuild trust. The willingness of Chinese companies to invest in India is premised on the Chinese approach that the border dispute should not be linked with economic issues and trade. The banning of Chinese digital apps and other economic restrictions are India's way of saying that China cannot have a win-win on the economic front and India lose-lose along the LAC. This is a significant because returning to the status quo on the economic domain is important for China to access India's large and growing market. China has complained to the WTO on India banning digital apps. India may also exclude China's telecom countries from participating in Indian projects. China remains the largest trading partner of India and other Quad members. India stayed away from the RCEP but Australia and Japan are members, underlining the economic heft of China. How to balance economic linkages and limiting China's expansionist agenda will be the ultimate navigating challenge for the Quad member countries.

QUOTE CORNER



When I meet people, I just think of myself as another human being, I don't think about being a Buddhist, a Tibetan or the Dalai Lama. I find it's easier to make friends that way. And I find that a smile is a true expression of friendship

Dalai Lama, Tibetan spiritual leader

Hate of any kind is simply unacceptable. Asian Americans and Asian immigrants in our country are facing an increase in hate. @POTUS and I are committed to working with the community to ensure all Americans are protected

Kamala Harris, US Vice President

Without justice & rule of law states disintegrate because once moral authority is lost by the state, deal making with the powerful criminals is resorted to. The recent Senate elections showed how we are losing our moral compass

Imran Khan, Pakistan Prime Minister

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Negligence helps the virus

People of our country seem to be mistaking that the spread of coronavirus is over. This is a very worrying development. When people become careless, the whole country will have to face problems. The growth of any country depends upon its citizens. If the citizens are negligent, the government becomes weak and it has to impose strict regulations, and such a situation is evolving in India. In some parts of our country the state governments have implemented the lockdown again. The heads of UN and WHO had praised our Prime Minister's strategy. When they will know that there is a great surge in infections in India, what will be our position? To avoid this we will have to follow the instructions of the government.

Narender Kumar, Joginder Nagar

Independence of poll panel

This refers to the report 'Can't stay a babu and be EC, rules SC'. Indisputably permanent executive is subservient to the political executive and has to do their bidding under all circumstances. The SC chiding the Goa government for its Law Secretary doubling up as State Election Commissioner is a sound judgment. This is a prerequisite for free and fair elections. Having said so, do the so-called independent persons serving as Election Commissioners are independent for all practical purposes? The integrity of the institution is challenged time and again by the opposition parties . Many of its actions betray it's pliability towards the government of the day. It was none other than the apex court which had at one point of time avowed that the EC is a toothless organisation. The SC ought to spell out what does it implies by ordering the posting of an independent person as the Election Commissioner under the prevailing circumstances?

Deepak Singhal, Noida

RaGa's late wisdom

As Budhdha realised truth after a long penance, Rahul Gandhi has now realised the truth that the Emergency imposed by his grandma was a grand mistake. It has taken nearly three decades for him to understand that suspension of the Constitution was an anti-people act of Indira Gandhi. However, in RaGa's case, his admission of guilt is to be taken with a pinch of salt as at any time he may change his views. However, what makes people angry now is his comparison of the current protest of Punjab farmers with that of Emergency. The strike has completed a hundred days without the government taking any coercive steps to stop it. This is despite the most provocative assertion that the strike will continue till the last day of Modi as the Prime Minister.

S Nagarajan Iyer Coimbatore

No shrines on encroached land

The UP government's order barring construction of places of worship on government lands such as roads, footpaths, state/national highways etc is a welcome move. Irrefutably such constructions are brazen encroachment of government lands. There are myriad illegal religious shrines across the country and the Allahabad HC order in this regard is fully coherent and prudent. In fact, a tenacious policy by the union government in this issue, in razing such 'holy' places, is vital in the genuine interest of the country.

Thomas K M, Muvattupuzha

Unrealistic manifestos

The article 'Tall assurances : Why is EC keeping mum about them?' is spot-on. To retain or capture power both the ruling and opposition parties are making promises beyond reality. They are not manifestos but allurements and appeasement to decoy the voters. Devoid of any measures for employment creation, their manifestos are suffused with freebies. Before releasing the manifestos every party should discuss with the EC about the feasibility of their promises. EC cannot say that unless there is objection from someone they have no power to question such manifestos. If necessary, legislations need to be passed, which will imbibe accountability to the parties. Will it happen!?

S Arjun Prasanna, Chennai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

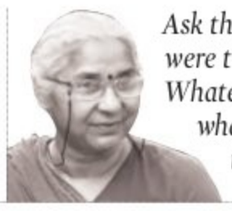
Dilip Ghosh @DilipGhoshBJP
India's border with Bangladesh that West Bengal shares is the most unsafe in the country

Venkaiah Naidu @MVenkaiahNaidu
We may have political differences..but we should not say anything which will damage country's image and also enemies will use against us

Smriti Irani @smritiirani
No party is more corrupt than Congress;vote for BJP to continue to avail benefits of centre and state schemes in Assam

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2021
DECIDE

Together we will fight and together we will win. For the sake of Aai Axom's survival, we will lay down our lives but never give up —Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam minister



Ask the farmers of Gujarat and how potato farmers were tricked by PEPSI and left in the lurch later. Whatever Adhikari or Vijayvargiya tell you, ask them what Ambani and Adani earn. Don't allow them to touch the land of Tagore —Medha Patkar, activist

We have never said AIUDF is a communal party. Unlike BJP, Ajmal doesn't spew religious venom. The AIUDF and always tries to take with a handholding attitude has tried to uplift their own community —Pradyut Bordoloi, Assam Congress

BJP will win because people want peace & development: Sonowal

Assam CM slams Congress for not increasing wage of tea workers, failing to protect rhinos

ASSAM Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** has chosen peace and development as the main points in his election campaign, pushing polarisation to the background. He is banking on what the BJP government has done for the state in the last five years to come back to power. He did mention "enemies of the nation" without elaborating. Excerpts from an interview to **Prasanta Mazumdar:**

Why do you think people will vote for BJP and you again?
Five years ago, there was corruption and nepotism. There was this cash-for-jobs scam in the Assam Public Service Commission. People had lost faith in the administration. The government developed middlemen to carry out its corrupt practices. Middlemen siphoned off benefits meant for beneficiaries. Due to Congress's misrule, governance was weakened. Every scheme failed.

Restoring people's trust was a major challenge for our government. We focused of cleansing governance. We first closed down 156 illegal check gates on national highways. Money collected there used to reach the pockets of (dishonest) elements, including politicians, bureaucrats etc. A signal was given that we will not tolerate corruption. This fight has continued.

Probe agencies were given freedom. No government before us achieved as much success during the drive against corruption. For the first time, candidates secured jobs based on merit after clearing exams conducted by APSC. Many were from poor families. Not just achievers, even those who failed to crack the exams gave statements that exams were conducted in a fair manner.

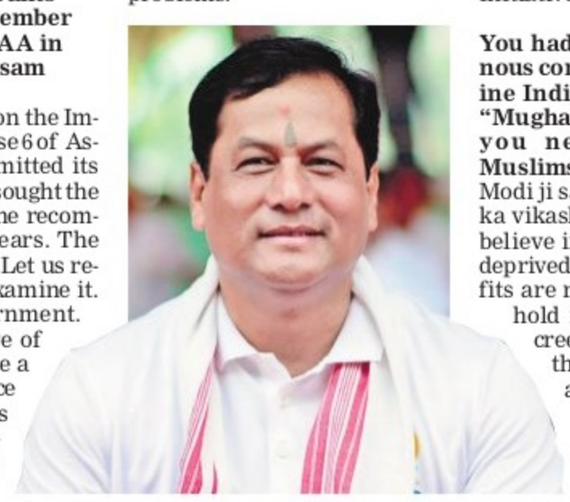
The Congress government did not work sincerely to stop rhino-poaching at Kaziranga National Park. We involved five districts, which surround the park, to ensure the animal's protection. We took the villagers into confidence. We gave sophisticated weapons to forest guards to fight poachers with automated weapons. Altogether, 370 were arrested and 70 convicted.

Did the CAA divide the Bengali-majority Barak and Assamese-majority Brahmaputra valleys?
To fulfil their own interests, some elements resorted to lies. Some said one crore Bangladeshis will come to Assam. Some said two crore. Time proved everything.

The Assam Accord says that immigrants, irrespective of faith who migrated after March 24, 1971, will have to be detected and deported. CAA wants to protect non-Muslim immigrants who came until December 31, 2014. Isn't the CAA in conflict with the Assam Accord?
The high-level panel on the Implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord has submitted its recommendations. It sought the implementation of the recommendations in two years. The time has not elapsed. Let us retain power, we will examine it. Leave it to the government.

Could the daily wage of tea garden workers be a big election issue since the Gauhati HC has stayed the ₹50 hike after the decision taken by the government was challenged by tea garden owners? Congress has started campaigning against it... What raise did the Congress offer in 55 years? They raised it in paise. We raised it by ₹80 in five years. Congress has no moral right to talk about it.

Can the Congress-AIUDF (All India United Democratic Front) alliance affect BJP's cause in the polls?
Congress-AIUDF always had an alliance, although it was never made official. They are the two sides of a coin. Their ideologies and principles are the same. They don't raise their voice for a greater Assam. Because of them, people of Assam are facing a threat to their existence. Who created this situation? First it was Congress, later it was AIUDF. People have understood their design. These forces are working to endanger the existence of people. That's why people have sidelined Congress today. The Assam Agitation was a result of Congress-created problems.



Are new parties Asom Jatiya Parishad and Raijor Dal a threat to BJP?
We have a conscious society which understands right and wrong. People want peace, progress and security. They know we worked on these in the last five years and achieved success. Members of insurgent groups have joined the mainstream. People have no worries with regards to daily business and security.

They are convinced that only a BJP-led government can turn Assam into a progressive state. Despite the pandemic, development work continued. We took steps to conserve the 600-year history of the Ahom dynasty. We built 18,000 km of road, universities, AIIMS and other institutes. Earlier, people had to agitate to get a bridge over Brahmaputra. Now, work on five bridges has started. Four more are coming up over river Barak. Our farmers can export their produce in cargo flights. Modi has become a darling of the people of North-east for his development initiatives.

You had called upon indigenous communities and genuine Indians to unite against "Mughal aggression". Don't you need the votes of Muslims?
Modi ji said "Sab ka saath, sabka vikash, sabka vishwas". We believe in it. Nobody has been deprived of any scheme. Benefits are reaching every household irrespective of caste, creed and religion. That is the spirit of democracy and the principle of secularism.

(Full interview on www.newindianexpress.com)

129
BJP workers were killed in political violence in West Bengal in the last few years, according to the party

₹8 cr
Cash has been seized in Assam since the announcement of the Assembly polls in the state

Shah to address rallies in Bengal
Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a two-day poll campaign in West Bengal starting from Sunday. He will address two rallies in Junglemahal, where the BJP made deep inroads in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls by bagging all five seats, and the other in West Midnapore's Kharagpur. Sources in the BJP said Shah and BJP's national president JP Nadda are likely to meet the family members of 129 BJP workers who were killed in police violence in the past few years.

BJP booth prez killed in Assam
A BJP booth president was stabbed to death in Upper Assam's Tinsukia district on Friday evening. The victim, Deba Gogoi (48), was the booth president of Buridihing Gaon Panchayat in Tinsukia district. He was rushed to a hospital but he succumbed to his injuries soon after. The police arrested a suspect, Joy Chandra Gogoi, in connection with the murder. Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal condemned the incident.

Trinamool Congress leaders greet former BJP leader Yashwant Sinha after he joined the party in Kolkata on Saturday | BIBHASH LODH

Attack on Didi prompted me to join TMC: Sinha

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

FORMER Union minister and BJP leader Yashwant Sinha joined Trinamool Congress on Saturday, days before the state goes to the first phase of Assembly polls on March 27. Talking about his decision, Sinha said it was triggered by the recent 'attack' on Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram and the BJP-led Centre's anti-people strategy.

Recounting Mamata's role when he was external affairs minister in 1999 and a plane was hijacked to Kandahar, Sinha said: "She had even offered to go as a hostage to the terrorists who hijacked the aircraft. Behind my decision, the tipping point was the attack on Mamataji in Nandigram. When I came to know about it, I took the decision. I was also influenced by her determination to resist BJP in the state and oppose its anti-people policy," said Sinha after being handed the TMC flag by state minister Subrata Mukherjee.

Sinha met Mamata at her residence for around 45 minutes. "The country is going through a tough time. Things that should be given priority in democracy are in crisis. Important institutions are in crisis, which is a serious threat to democracy. Our farmers are sitting on the road but nobody bothers," said Sinha.

He also said the current BJP is different from what it was in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's regime.

Sinha's inclusion in the TMC is said to be an attempt by Bengal's ruling party to woo voters from Bihar who are and settled in Kolkata. Bengal has around six per cent non-Bengali speaking voters and a considerable chunk of them are from Bihar.

Praising Mamata, Sinha said: "She has remained a fighter. She is fighting in Bengal to stop BJP."

TMC leader Mukherjee said it was a proud moment that a leader like Sinha has joined TMC. "Had the chief minister not been injured, she would have been present here. We will be enriched by the inclusion of Sinha. Other than Mamata, no other leader has the stature of Sinha in our party," he said.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha leaders and social activists in Kolkata on Saturday | PTI

Defeat BJP for ruining farmers: Rakesh Tikait in Nandigram

KOLKATA: Samyukta Kisan Morcha leader Rakesh Tikait asked voters of election-bound West Bengal to not vote for the BJP as the new farm laws had ruined the future of farmers.

Addressing a mahapanchayat at Nandigram on Saturday, he said: "The new farm laws will ruin the future of farmers. Crops are not being purchased at MSP. We appeal to not vote for the BJP as it robbed the entire country. Vote for candidates who can defeat the BJP."

CM Mamata Banerjee is contesting against her once-trusted lieutenant Suvendu Adhikari, who had defected to the BJP, from the Nandigram seat.

Tikait was received by TMC leader Dola Sen at the airport from where he left for Nandigram. Without naming Adhikari, Tikait criticised leaders who switched political parties ahead of the polls. Castigating the BJP's rice collection initiative, the farm leader said, "They are collecting rice not to open a community kitchen. The BJP has no fund crisis. They are trying to collect votes in the name of collecting rice."

Banerjee extended support to the farm movement by staging a sit-in demonstration at the Delhi border. TMC leaders said the visit of farm leaders would benefit the party. Balbir Singh Rajewal, Gurnam Singh Chaduni, Darshan Pal, Yogendra Yadav, Manjit Singh and Himanshu Tiwari are also in Bengal to hold rallies. *ENS*

QUAD SUMMIT

Infra cooperation must be next priority: Experts

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

THE vaccine initiative was the biggest takeaway from the first-ever Quad summit held on Friday, experts said, but the meet did not address some key issues with regard to China.

"The Covid Vaccine Initiative will serve as a great model for future collaborations and provide the opportunity for the partners to finally start working together towards tangible goals. This will solidify the idea of Quad as a platform for partners to coordinate and pool in resources towards common ends," Kriti Upadhyaya, a research associate at Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said.

Harinder Sekhon, a veteran Indo-US ties analyst, echoed her views. "The focus is not only on traditional security but on soft power and non-traditional security threats. The establishment of sustainable supply chains, safeguarding emerging and critical technologies, weather mapping to monitor natural calamities and climate change are the key areas of focus. Sustaining these soft power initiatives will improve the lives of billions of people in the Indo-Pacific region and pose a bigger challenge to Chinese assertiveness and its economic outreach. The vaccine initiative is a major step in this direction," she said.

The summit, according to Upadhyaya, was timely as it took place on a day when the WMCC held its meeting. "The Quad Summit was President Biden's first multilateral engagement and took place on the same day as the India-China disengagement talks. This signalling serves to dispel concerns about the new US administration's seriousness towards the Quad as well as suspicions that a reproaching with China would mean India backing away from the Quad, fearing Chinese backlash," she said.

However, infrastructure cooperation was one agenda that was missing, according to Sekhon. Upadhyaya concurred and said, "China's dominance in that sphere is rising. Hopefully, future Quad meetings will explore infrastructure and related issues," she said. Government officials said the grouping will take one priority at a time. "With time, issues of regional and global importance will also be taken up," an official said.

BSP chief Mayawati receives first dose of Covid vaccine in Lucknow on Saturday | PTI

SHOT IN THE ARM

20.53 lakh beneficiaries took shots on Friday, highest daily vaccinations in a day so far, **2.82 cr** total beneficiaries have been vaccinated in India so far

16.39 lakh beneficiaries have received the first shot of the two-dose regime

4,13,874 HCWs, front line workers received the second dose

24,882 positive cases were detected in the country in last 24 hours

1.13 cr is India's total tally

140 deaths recorded on Friday

2,02,022 active cases recorded across India, the highest single-day tally this year

NIGHT CURFEW LIKELY IN MP CITIES

The MP government is likely to impose night curfew in Bhopal and Indore from Sunday or Monday night. CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan had chaired a Covid-19 review meeting with nodal officer in-charges of all the districts on Friday evening. If the cases continue to rise, then night curfew could be imposed in the two cities, he said, adding the final decision will be taken on Monday

1 in 10 medical students wary of shots

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

A survey among medical students has revealed that nearly 11%, or one in 10, of them were hesitant to take Covid-19 vaccine owing to worries over its safety and efficacy, hurried testing of vaccines prior to launch and lack of trust in government agencies.

The survey was carried out by researchers at AIIMS-Jodhpur among over 1,000 undergraduate medicates across 22 states. It also found that choosing between the two available vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — was considered important both for themselves and their future patients. Covishield was preferred over Covaxin by students.

The vaccination drive prioritised healthcare workers, which included medical students in the first phase. Although provided free of charge, there has been no option for the health workers to choose between the two vaccines.

In many states, the pace of vaccination was rather slow initially with anecdotal evidence suggesting that doctors and medical students were sometimes most reluctant to take the shot as compared to other staffers in health facilities.

In India, nearly 73 lakh of the estimated 1 crore healthcare workers have now taken the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine and about 43 lakh have completed their vaccination schedule by taking the second doses. The latest survey, which was carried out between February 2 and March 7, also found that the majority of those willing to take the vaccine felt that it was important for them to resume their clinical posting, face-to-face classes and get their personal life back on track.

"The real concern regarding adverse events appeared to be from the possible 'long term' effect of the vaccine," noted the survey, adding that this was coupled with the apprehension that the vaccines had not been tested rigorously enough to determine all possible adverse events and efficacy in a proper manner.

SIX COVID VACCINES IN OFFING IN INDIA: VARDHAN

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Saturday announced that more than six coronavirus vaccines will come up in India. He also said that 1.84 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered to people so far, while 23 crore tests have been conducted. "Many more nations are seeking the vaccines, and these are not little-known nations... Canada, Brazil and other developed countries are using Indian vaccines with a great zeal," he said

More women judges likely in apex court

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

WITH the retirement of Justice Indu Malhotra from the Supreme Court on Saturday, the top court is left with only one woman judge in Indira Banerjee. Justice Malhotra was the first woman lawyer to become a Supreme Court judge. With her retirement, the number of vacancies rose to five.

The collegium is considering a few women judges for elevation. The name of senior judge BV Nagarathna from Karnataka HC is doing the rounds. If elevated now, she will be in line to become the first woman CJI in 2027 for a period of eight months. Chief Justice of Telangana HC, Hima Kohli's name is also discussed. If appointed now, she will have a tenure till 2024. Otherwise, she retires in September. Across 26 HCs, there are only 82 women judges out of 1,079. Madras tops the list with 13, followed by Punjab and Haryana with 11. The Delhi and Bombay HCs have eight women judges each, with one each in Gauhati, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Sikkim.

Though there are no fixed rules to appoint judges for the top court, seniority and regional representation are usually the major criteria.

COPS HURT

Two policemen were injured in a grenade attack by militants in Baramulla district of J&K on Saturday. The ultras hurled a grenade at a police post at Sopore bus stand in the district, a police official said

381 STRANDED PASSENGERS FERRIED FROM J&K TO LADAKH BY IAF

INDIA	Max	Min	INDIA	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	38	19	Mumbai	32	19
Bhopal	35	16	Panaji	33	24
Jaipur	32	17	Patna	32	20
Amritsar	28	14	Lucknow	33	16
Chennai	33	22	Port Blair	33	25
Kolkata	33	24	Imphal	29	13
Srinagar	09	04	Chandigarh	32	14

UP panchayat polls face high court order hurdle

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE order by Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court granting interim stay on seat reservation proceedings by the state government may delay the three-tier rural local body elections in Uttar Pradesh, which were scheduled to be held in April-May.

A two-member bench, comprising Justice Rituraj Awasthi and Justice Manish Mathur, granted the interim stay while hearing a PIL filed by one Ajay Kumar and issued notices to the State Election Commission and the state government to file their replies by the next date of hearing on March 15.

The petitioner had challenged the February 11 government order which had fixed 1995 as the base year for rotating the reserved seats in village, blocks and district local bodies. He claimed that it was in violation of an earlier order dated September 15, which had fixed 2015 as the base year. The last polls were held as per the September 2015 order, the petitioner pleaded.

Subsequent to HC order, the state government has issued orders to the panchayati raj department and all district magistrates to stop the rotation of reserved seats till further orders.

In its earlier order, the Allahabad High Court had slammed the state government for inordinate delay in holding panchayat polls and had directed it to complete the rotation of reserved seats by March 17 and finish the election process of gram panchayats by April 30 and those of blocks and zila panchayats by May 15.

Akhilesh booked over alleged assault on journalists

A case has been registered against Samajwadi party chief Akhilesh Yadav and 20 party workers in connection with alleged assault on some journalists in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad, police said on Saturday. An FIR was registered at Pakhwara police station late on Friday night under various sections of the IPC on the basis of a complaint by a journalist, officials said.According to the complainant, Yadav, the former Uttar Pradesh CM, was irked by a few personal question posed by some journalists during an interaction at a hotel on March 11 after a press conference. Following this, Yadav allegedly instigated his security guards and aides to attack the journalists, the FIR claimed.

UP madrasas see steady fall in number of students

Trend is prominent in government aided and recognised madrasas

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

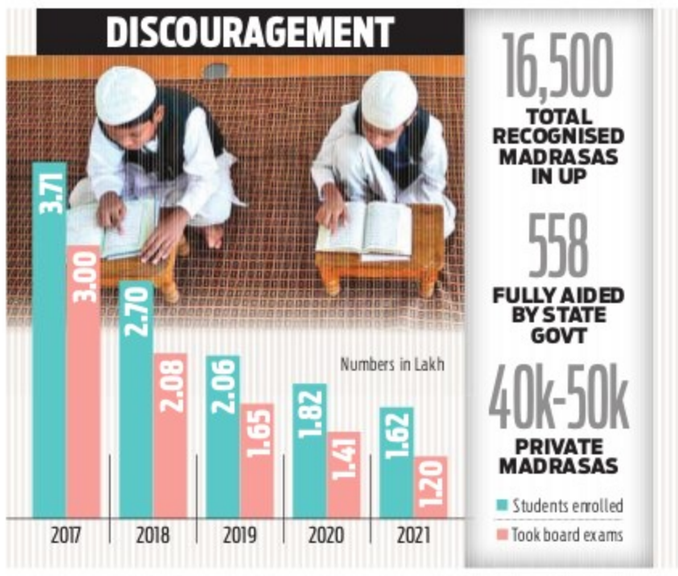
DESPITE the state government's focus on lifting the standard of education in madrasas by bringing the curriculum at par with mainstream institutions, number of students at these centres of Islamic education in Uttar Pradesh has been dwindling.

The trend is prominent in aided and recognised madrasas. The state government allocated ₹479 crore for the Madrasas Modernization scheme in its 2021-22 budget to upgrade the traditional institutions and connect students with emerging opportunities.

As per data from UP Madrasa Shiksha Board, there are around 16,500 recognised madarsas, of which 558 are totally aided. At madrasas, students mainly from the minority community are imparted knowledge of Islamic theology and jurisprudence. By rough estimates, there are around 40,000-50,000 private madrasas in the state. "Almost all mosques have a madrasa," says Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali, rector of Darul Uloom, Firangi Mahal and chairman of Islamic Centre of India, one of the biggest madarsas in UP.

In 2017, around 3.71 lakh students enrolled in recognised madrasas, of which around 3 lakh appeared in exams conducted by UP Madrasa Shiksha Board. In 2018, this figure dwindled to 2.70 lakh, of which 2.08 lakh appeared in board exams. Next year, there were 2.06 students, with 1.65 lakh appearing in exams.

In 2020, 1.82 lakh students got enrolled and only 1.41 lakh took exams. In 2021, 1.62 lakh students have enrolled for Madrasa Board exams. Usually, about 40,000 skip exams annually. So only 1.20 lakh are expected to appear in Board exams this year. A Mufti seeking anonymity claimed that besides Covid-19, lack of modern education, vocational education, English speaking ability of the teachers and professional approach to prepare students for the competitive world are reasons why Muslim students are shying away from madrasas. They believe those possessing madrasa certificates find it difficult to get decent jobs.



Some madrasas teachers claimed that technical upgrade of the curriculum has not taken place. Students of this generation acknowledge the value of modern education to be at par with those from mainstream institutions. "They feel they get Islamic education at madrasas, which does not prepare them for competitions in other fields. This, they feel, hampers their professional growth," said a teacher.

The pandemic played its role. Due to paucity of funds in the absence of donations during Ramzan, students could not be offered hostel facilities. The scare of the pandemic also kept students away. "Though online classes were conducted and some of the students joined in, a majority was unable to access the technology," said a senior Mufti of a prominent Lucknow madrasa.

Firangi Mahali said he is in favour of making madrasa students ready for competitions. The state government has introduced NCERT in syllabus of state madrasa, besides rationalizing their course. Science, mathematics, social science, computer and home science have been made compulsory "The state government is committed to reforming madarsa education so that students can apply and qualify for any competitive exam like mainstream students," said a UP Madrasa Shiksha Board official.

SOLVING CRISIS

Ex-NITI Aayog official says legal guarantee of MSP feasible

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

AMIDST the ongoing farmers' agitation, former senior official of NITI Aayog and agriculture expert Tajamul Haque has called for amendments in the contentious farm laws for longtime objectives of agriculture.

Haque, former chairman of the Commission for Agriculture Cost and Prices, said that the government should give a legal sanctity to the MSP without committing for 100 per cent public procurement to protect the interests of the farmers.

Quoting the NSSO data, Haque argued that even in the case of major crop like kharif paddy only 29 per cent of the total quantity sold was through the mandis, while 49 per cent was sold to local private traders and input dealers at lower prices. He said, thus, it's not entirely correct that the farmers are shackled with the *mandis* and the farm laws would liberate them. Haque added that the cooperative and government agencies accounted for 17 per cent of the total quantity of kharif paddy marketed in the country.

On the basis of realistic and dispassionate analysis of the current agriculture scenario, Haque suggested that the government should accommodate key amendments in the farm laws.

"The key amendments should provide for uniform regulatory mechanism for trade within the *mandi* and outside, besides duly fixed MSP as the base or reference price for fair average quality of produce, within and outside APMC, including under contract farming," Haque said, adding that improved enforcement, dispute settlement mechanisms, availability of reliable price and market data should be provided.

Haque also called upon the government to address the need of the farmers in underdeveloped areas with adequate number of physical market yards within a reasonable distance, all weather roads, transportation services, banks, warehouses and cold storage facilities, along with upgradation of the existing 22000 rural *haats* and their integration with wholesale regulated markets.

CHANGE IN GEAR

Drivers ride electronic buggy carriages during a trial run ahead of its launch in Mumbai on Saturday | PTI

R'than Cong rift reaches high command

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE tussle between the **Sachin Pilot** and **Ashok Gehlot** camps in Rajasthan Congress over alleged discrimination against Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) MLAs has reached the party high command in Delhi.

Rift in the state unit has intensified after statements from former minister Ramesh Meena and MLAs Murari Lal Meena and Ved Prakash Solanki, who claimed that the government is trying to suppress the voice of MLAs representing SC/ST and minorities, as they have been allotted Assembly seats without microphones.

All three Congress MLAs to have spoken to the media about this alleged bias were part of the Pilot rebellion against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot last year. On Friday, these MLAs accused the state government of discriminating against legislators of SC/ST and minority communities, with Ramesh even threatening to resign. Besides Gehlot, the Congress Chief Whip in the Assembly, Mahesh Joshi has also been targeted by the Pilot supporters. With the Pilot loyalists threatening to meet Rahul Gandhi, Joshi also reached Delhi on Saturday.

During debate in the Assembly over many MLAs being provided seats with no microphones, Ramesh and Solanki trained their guns on Joshi. They claimed that Joshi did not show sensitivity or seriousness in providing seats for SC/ST and minority MLAs. They also argued that while some MLAs are given a chance to speak in the House on many occasions, several SC/ST and minority MLAs are ignored.

According to sources, the Congress state unit is taking the charges made by the Pilot loyalists seriously. But senior leaders have instructed others not to make public statements. While the state Congress has collected statements and video footage of allegations made by the Pilot loyalists, they refused to make comments.

Though Joshi admitted that he is in Delhi, he refused to speak on the allegations.

Crowd will swell at protest sites a few days after Holi

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LABOURERS though can be seen constructing structures on the roadside at various places along the Singhu border. There are four double-storey houses that are being built at the border. The masons have come from Punjab. At present, the numerical strength of farmers at the protest sites in Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur is thin as many have returned to their villages for harvesting. "A few days after Holi, the crowd will swell at the protest sites," said a BKU member.

Small wood pyres for Holika dahan have been set up to celebrate Holi. Elections in West Bengal have become the talking point amongst the groups, with farmer leader Rakesh Tikait touring the state asking people to vote against the BJP.

EXPRESS READ

Illicit liquor trade: Turmoil in Bihar House

Patna: The Bihar assembly plunged into turmoil on Saturday when the opposition sought to raise the issue of alleged involvement of revenue and land reforms minister Ram Surat Rai in illicit liquor trade, forcing adjournment of the House around noon till lunch. Leader of the Opposition and former Dy CM Tejashwi Yadav urged the Chair that he had some "evidence" against Rai which he wished to place before the House following a huge a uproar.

Amarnath Yatra to start on June 28

Srinagar: The annual 56-day Amarnath Yatra will commence on June 28 and conclude on August 22 with all Covid-19 protocols in place. The decision was taken at the 40th board meeting of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB). "The SASB, keeping in view safety and security of the pilgrims decided to start the Yatra on Ashaad Chaturthi as per Hindu Calendar on June 28 and conclude on Shravan Purnima (Raksha Bandhan) on August 22," a board spokesman said.

Jharkhand panchayats get push from 'Anu Didi'

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

TO boost the development of village panchayats, the Jharkhand government has decided to launch a unique initiative. Called ANUSAMARTHAN DIDI (Accelerated but Natural Uplifting for ANU), this programme will be run by women from self-help groups. They will go to panchayats, implement developmental projects and report to the government what the villagers think. In short, this will be called 'Anu Didi'.

Officials believe this will play an important role in strengthening the link between the state government and panchayats. As of now, out of 4356 panchayats in Jharkhand, the state government plans this in only 456, falling under 91 blocks of Jharkhand.

According to Panchayati Raj Director Aditya Ranjan, the importance of 'sabhas' has to be firmly established. "Anu Didi will help in strengthening the link between the state government and panchayats by implementing various schemes more efficiently," he said.

The Panchayati Raj Department will work on the concept for a few months on a trial basis to assess its utility. Decision on expanding it to more panchayats will be taken collecting feedback.

As per officials, two Anu Didi groups will be assigned to each of these 456 panchayats, who will hold 'sabhas' on a regular basis and assist the government in selecting developmental projects.

CM felicitates Gavaskar on 50 years in int'l cricket

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel felicitated 'Little Master' Sunil Gavaskar on his completing 50 years in the international cricket. During their discussion they recollected the magic and the excitement the people experienced while listening to the live cricket commentary on radio when there was no television set. Appreciating the pro-sports policies of Chhattisgarh government Gavaskar said the national and international players have cherished playing at the Shahid Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium by Legend teams from India, England, South Africa, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and West Indies.

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
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RAIPUR DIARY

Amid rising cases, FIR over flouting Covid norms

The Raipur district administration has decided to impose strict restrictions while complying with the Covid-19 protocols and will register an FIR besides the punitive fines against those found flouting the norms. The Covid-19 tally of positive cases in the state rose to 3,16,312. As many 3,08,854 have recovered with 3,578 active cases remaining as on Saturday. The state health officials blamed the people's negligence for the sudden rise in fresh Covid cases as the restrictions like social distancing, wearing mask were seen being openly flouted in public places. The state as of now however has ruled out a possibility of lockdown to be reimposed. Raipur and the adjoining Durg district continue to drive the spike in the state figure on coronavirus infection cases.

Australian envoy discusses investment in state

Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell paid a visit to NMDC, the state-owned mining giant having two major iron-ore complexes in south Chhattisgarh, and discussed scope for investment besides mutual collaboration in mining sector. He interacted with Sumit Deb, NMDC-CMD and other senior officials. The delegation discussed how Australia can be of NMDC's interest in critical and strategic mining activities besides the joint cooperation and investment in mining in Australia.

3-day Sirpur Buddhist Festival begins

A 3-day international Sirpur Baudh Mahotsav began at Sirpur, a Buddhist archaeological site in Mahasamund district on Saturday. Sirpur situated on the bank of Mahanadi river, was known to be a land of cultural prosperity, architectural expertise and religious tolerance. The event by the Chhattisgarh Heritage and Cultural Foundation will see a global participation of Buddhist scholars including archaeologists, historians, researchers, noted writers and academicians. Cultural programmes by artists, exhibition of short films and photographs would be held.

15 Nigerian soldiers killed as jihadists ambush a convoy in Borno

7 killed in Myanmar as hundreds defy curfew

More violence feared as protesters dare junta for second night in a row on Saturday to hold candlelight vigils

YANGON

AT least four people were killed when demonstrators took to the streets again across Myanmar on Saturday, following a deadly overnight crackdown that killed three others.

Four deaths were reported in Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city, two in Pyay, a town in south-central Myanmar, and one in Twante, a suburb of Yangon, Myanmar's largest city. Details of all seven deaths were posted on multiple social media accounts, some accompanied by photos of the victims.

The actual death toll is likely to be higher, as police apparently seized some bodies, and some of the wounded suffered grievous gunshot wounds that doctors and nurses working at makeshift clinics will be hard-pressed to treat. Many hospitals are occupied by security forces, and as a result are boycotted by medical personnel and shunned by protesters.

The independent UN human rights expert for Myanmar, Tom Andrews, said on Thursday that "credible reports" indicated security forces in the Southeast Asian nation had so far killed at least 70 people, and cited growing evidence of crimes against humanity since the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Protesters in Yangon hold up their mobile phones on Saturday night as they take part in a candlelight vigil ignoring a night curfew imposed by the junta | AFP

Other unofficial but carefully compiled tallies put the total number of deaths since the coup at around 90.

Saturday's killings did not faze demonstrators in Yangon who crowded a downtown commercial area past the official 8 pm curfew to hold a mass candlelight vigil and to sing about their cause. The mostly young protesters rallied at an intersection where they usually gather for daytime protests.

After-dark rallies was also held in Mandalay and elsewhere. Reports on social media also said three people were shot dead Friday night in Yangon, where residents for the past week have been defying the curfew to come out onto the streets. Two deaths by gunfire were reported in Yangon's Thaketa township, where a protest being held outside a police station was dispersed. A crowd had gathered there to demand the release of three young men who were seized from their home earlier Friday night. Photos said to be of the bodies of two dead protesters were posted online. The other reported fatality Friday night was of a 19-year-old man shot in Hlaing township. The night-time protests may reflect a more aggressive approach to self-defense that has been advocated by some protesters. Police had been aggressively patrolling residential neighborhoods at night, firing into the air and setting off stun grenades in an effort at intimidation.

They have also been carrying out targeted raids, taking people from their homes with minimal resistance. In at least two known cases, the detainees died in custody within hours of being taken away. Another possible indication of heightened resistance emerged Saturday with photos posted online of a railway bridge said to have been damaged by an explosive charge. *AP*

Burqa ban, more powers for Lankan govt to fight terror

COLOMBO

SRI Lankan government on Saturday announced that it will use a controversial anti-terror law to deal with religious extremism and gave itself sweeping powers to detain suspects for up to two years for "deradicalisation".

Separately, the government also said it will soon outlaw the burqa, formalising a temporary ban imposed in April 2019 after deadly bomb attacks blamed on local jihadists.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa promulgated regulations allowing the detention of anyone suspected of causing "acts of violence or religious, racial or communal disharmony or feelings of ill will or hostility between different communities".

The rules, effective Friday, have been set up under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), which both local and international rights groups have repeatedly asked Colombo to repeal. Sri Lanka's previous government, which was defeated by Rajapaksa at 2019 elections, had pledged to repeal the PTA after admitting it seriously undermined individual freedoms, but failed to do so.

Rajapaksa, who came to power with a promise to battle

An armed policeman guards a Catholic church in Colombo | AFP

Islamic extremism, announced the "deradicalisation from holding violent extremist religious ideology" measures in a gazette notification.

Meanwhile, Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera announced Saturday that the burqa, a loose garment covering from head to toe and worn in public in many Islamic states, was a threat to Sri Lanka's national security.

"The burqa is something that directly affects our national security," Weerasekera said. "This (dress) came into Sri Lanka only recently. It is a symbol of their religious extremism." Weerasekera said he signed documents outlawing the burqa, but they need to be approved by the cabinet of ministers and parliament where the government has a two-thirds majority to see its bills through. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

UK policeman in court over woman's death

London: A serving British police officer accused of the kidnap and murder of a woman in London appeared in court for the first time Saturday. Wayne Couzens, 48, is charged with kidnapping and killing 33-year-old Sarah Everard, who went missing while walking home from a friend's apartment in south London on the evening of March 3. The case has sparked a national outcry, and the Metropolitan Police has expressed anger and shock that one of its own was arrested for the crime.

Coup: Former interim prez of Bolivia held

LA PAZ

BOLIVIA'S former interim president Jeanine Anez was arrested Saturday on terrorism and sedition charges over what the government claims was a coup attempt against her predecessor and political rival Evo Morales.

Police were also rounding up former ministers who backed the conservative politician's caretaker government, which was in place for a year after Morales fled the country in November 2019 amid disputed elections, media reports said.

The arrests came months after Morales returned to Bolivia from exile on the back of a fresh election victory in October 2020 for the leftist Movement for Socialism (MAS) party he founded. Both the presidency and congress are now under the control of MAS.

"I inform the Bolivian people that Mrs Jeanine Anez has already been apprehended and is currently in the hands of the police," government minister Carlos Eduardo del Castillo wrote on Twitter and Facebook. *PTI*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CHEMIST
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
GANDHI NAGAR, JAIPUR
NIT No. Lab-46/20-21/dated: 06.03.2021

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan PHED invites on line tenders in electronic format on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, from the aspirant eligible bidders, for the work of "Providing of service for the establishment and running of water testing laboratories at the 20 blocks H.Q's of districts Barmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Pali, Sirohi (Region-Jodhpur) Rajasthan along with the providing of skilled human resources, instruments, chemicals, glassware, other O&M requirements, collection and testing of water samples, uploading of sample testing results on IMIS/PHED web site, documentation as well as through the apps provided, GIS mapping of drinking water sources to locate each source and to linking such sources with their quality testing results (For 2 years)". The tender documents can be downloaded form the website as described below. Cost of downloading of tender documents is Rs 5000.00, which is to be paid in the form of Demand Draft / Bankers Cheque/e-GRAS Challan in favor of Chief Chemist PHED Jaipur, Rajasthan. Other details can be seen in tender documents.

S. No	NIT No & Date	Estimated Cost in Rs (in Lakh)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Date & Time of downloading of Tender documents	Last Date & Time of Online Submission of Tender	Date & Time of online opening of qualifying bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Lab-46/20-21/ dated: 06.03.2021	903.77	9,03,770/-	06.03.2021 (11:00 AM)	30.03.2021 (6:00 PM)	31.03.2021 (12:00 AM)

NOTE:

1. The tender processing fee Rs.1000.00 is to be paid in form of Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque/e-GRAS Challan in favour of MD.RISL Jaipur for each tender downloaded and processed.
2. Bidders who wish to participate in this tender will have to register themselves on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and if they want to participate in online tenders then they will have to procure digital certificate as per information technology act 2000, using which they can sign and upload their electrocnic bids.
3. Bidders shall submit their offer online in electronic format on above mentioned website to time and date mentioned here in above.
4. Date & time of downloading of tender document is 06.03.2021 (11.00 AM); Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 12.03.2021 (02:00 PM) at the office fo the Cheif Engineer (Rural), PHED, Jal Bhawan, Jaipur (Raj); Ph-0141-2222183.
5. Last date & time of Online submission of Tender is 30.03.2021 (6:00 PM); date and time for physical submission of Cheque/e-GRAS Challan CIN receipt of EMD & RISL Processing fee is 31.03.2021 (11:00 AM) at the office of the Chief Chemist PHED, Raj, Gandhi-Nagar-Jaipur and the date & time of opening of technical bid is 31.03.2021 (12:00 AM) at the office of the Chief Chemist PHED, Raj, Gandhi-Nagar-Jaipur.

Detailed NIT/tender document available on websites: **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**, and **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Sd/-
CHIEF CHEMIST
PHED, JAIPUR, RAJ

PHE 2021WLOB11197
DIPR/C/2021/2779

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QuoteExpress

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE › NELSON MANDELA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client one **SMT. JABEEN BANU,** W/O. Late AFSAR, AGED ABOUT 52 YEARS, **Aadhaar NO.4459 1264 4522,** and **MRS. RUHI NAAZ** D/O. LATE AFSAR, Aadhaar NO.8806 3146 8018, both are R/AT. NO.3/48, 8th B Main, New Gurappanapalya, Bangalore-29. Are absolute owner of the schedule property.

My client One **SMT. JABEEN BANU** Lost of registered GPA Deed Dated 3.05.2001. **DOCUMENT NO.53/2001-02. BOOK NO.IV, VOLUME NO.18,** Registered before the Sub-Register, Jayanagar, Bangalore, and Ratification Deed Dated 03.03.2020 Doc NO. BGR-1-08959/2019-20. CD NO.BGRD552. Registered Before Sub Registrar Begur and The Schedule Page of Release deed Dated.25.02.2016. Doc NO.BGR-1-08120/2015-16. CD NO. BGRD276. Registered before Sub Registrar Begur, Bangalore. In to the name of my **SMT. JABEEN BANU** and My Daughter One MRS. RUHI NAZ, D/O. LATE AFSAR. And Regarding this lost I have lodge a complaint Before Police Bangalore. Complaint **NO. 0000563/2021. DATED 12.03.2021.** If any person found this document kindly returned this document to police or me and if any person use this document illegally are create charge/made any transaction other than my client it is not responsible for that, to my client this notice issued for Public intimation.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING SITE NO.31, OLD NO.61, MUNCIPAL NO.36/61/31/31. AND SITE NO. 32. MUNICIPAL NO.36/61/31/32. SITUATED AT BOMMANAHALLI VILLAGE, BEGUR HOBLI, BANGALORE SOUTH TALUK, BANGALORE. AT PRESENT BBMP WARD NO.189, MEASURING EAST TO WEST 40 FEET, NORTH TO SOUTH 60 FEET, TOTALLY MEASURING 2400 SQ. FEET, BOUNDED ON:

EAST BY : SITE NO.33 AND 34,
WEST BY : 25 FEET ROAD,
NORTH BY : ROAD,
SOUTH BY : ROAD.

S. RASHEED SAB, Advocate
NO. 31, 6TH CROSS, BALAJINAGAR DRC POST, BANGALORE-29.
Mobile : 09448569509.9740893190
Place : Bangalore. Date : 12-03-2021

QuoteExpress

WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS

GORDON B HINCKLEY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client Mrs. Bindu shree, W/o Mr. S M Sujay, Residing at Prashanth Residency, Akshayanagar Layout, Yellanahalli, Bangalore - 560068, has lost the original Allotment Letter and Provisional Certificate, in respect of the property bearing No.331, MIG-6-3, Ground Floor, Block No.136, of the property situated at Kengeri 3rd Stage, Valagerahalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. If any of the Public persons find or in possession of the original Allotment Letter and provisional Certificate, shall hand over to the address mentioned below.

K.S. CHANDRASHEKHAR
Address & Notary
No.21, Dhondusa Layout, Off. Bull Temple Road, Mount Joy Cross Road, Hanumanthanagar, BANGALORE-560019. Mob : 9448366193

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kind Attention of the public is drawn that my client M. Syed Mudassar Ahmed, Son of Syed Manzoor Ahmed, is the absolute owner in respect of the immovable property bearing No. 14, Municipal No. 8, situated at Manorayana Palya, 7th Cross, Ward No.96, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032, measuring 2400 square feet, bounded on East by: Property bearing No. 13, West by: property bearing No. 15 & 16, North by: Road, South by: Private property, has filed a suit for Permanent Injunction, in O.S. No. 1088 of 2021, as against Mr. Syed Maqsood Ahmed @ Syed Masood Ahmed, and the same is for pending consideration.

If any person or persons enters into any kind of Sale transaction or any other transaction in respect of the aforesaid property, from the aforesaid person, they are doing so at their risk and cost.

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE:
Sri. B.L. Nanda Kumar
Advocate and Associates, Advocates No.150, Malleshwaram Arcade, Margosa Road, between 7th & 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560 003.

बिहार सरकार

Hiring of Town Planning Professionals and Technical Persons for Projects under Area Development Scheme, Land Pooling Scheme and Local Area Plan within the Area of Patna Master Plan 2031.

PATNA METROPOLITAN AREA AUTHORITY
(Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar)
5th Floor, Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Limited,
Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna – 800023(Bihar)
(Email: ceo.pmaa@gmail.com , website: https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/pmaa)

1. As per guidelines of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Govt. Of India, for Implementation of the sub-scheme (Pilot on Formulation of Local Area Plan(LAP) and Town Planning Scheme(TPS)), following professionals are being hired under Patna Metropolitan Area Authority for 3 TPS and 1 LAP projects of 300 Ha each.
2. Patna Metropolitan Area Authority (PMAA) proposes to undertake the projects under Area Development Scheme, Land Pooling Scheme and Local Area Plan within the Area of Patna Master Plan 2031 and accordingly invites application for hiring Town Planning Professionals and Technical Persons on contract basis for a period of 10 Months, as specified below.

SL. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts	Educational Qualification	Experience	Monthly Remuneration
1	Senior Planner	03 (UR-01, EBC-01, UR(F)-01)	Masters in Planning/Urban and Rural Planning/City Planning/Regional Planning or equivalent after B.Arch/B.Plan/B.E Civil/Masters in Geography from reputed University/ Institutions.	Minimum **7 years** of work experience including relevant experience of **3 yrs** in Master Plan/Zonal Plans/Town Planning Scheme/Local Area Plan/Area Development Scheme. **Note:- Preference shall be given to the applicant having higher relevant work experience of Town Planning Scheme/Land Pooling Scheme/Area Development Projects in Planning Authority/ Urban Development Authority/Town and Country Planning Organization.**	Rs.100000
2	Senior Urban Designer	01	Masters in Urban Design/Architecture (Urban Design) or equivalent after B.Arch from reputed University/ Institutions.	Minimum **7 years** of total experience including relevant experience of **3 yrs** in Urban design related projects related with Local Area Plan/Plan of Urban Renewal Scheme. **Note:- Preference shall be given to the applicant having higher relevant work experience of Local Area Plan/Area Development Projects related to urban design in Planning Authority/Urban Development Authority/Town and Country Planning Organization.**	Rs.100000
3	Assistant Planner	09 (UR-02, UR(F)-02, EBC-01, EBC(F)-01,SC-01,BC-01, EWS-01)	Masters in Planning/Urban and Rural Planning/City Planning/Regional Planning or equivalent after B.Arch/ B.Plan/B.E Civil/Masters in Geography from reputed University/ Institutions.	Fresher or experienced	Rs.40000
4	Assistant Urban Designer	03 (UR-01, EBC-01, UR(F)-01)	Masters in Urban Design/Architecture (Urban Design) or equivalent after B.Arch from reputed University/ Institutions.	Fresher or experienced	Rs. 40000
5	Junior Staff (GIS)	04 (UR-01, EBC-01, UR(F)-01, SC-01)	Masters in Geoinformatics or PG Diploma in Remote Sensing after B.E/ B.Tech/ Graduate in (Geography/Geology/Environmental Science)	Minimum **3 years** of total experience including **1 years** of relevant experience in Master Plan/Base Map projects.	Rs.30000
6	Junior Staff (Junior Engineer)	04 (UR-01, EBC-01, UR(F)-01, SC-01)	Diploma in Civil Engineering from AICTE recognized College/University.	Minimum **5 years** of experience in similar field.	Rs.27000
7	Junior Staff (Surveyor/Amin)	04 (UR-01, EBC-01, UR(F)-01, SC-01)	Diploma in Land Survey /Passing Certificate of Surveyor Training from ITI/Amanat Certificate from Govt. Affiliated Institute.	Minimum **5 years** of experience in similar field of Land Surveying.	Rs.25000
8	Junior Staff (Draughtsman)	04 (UR-01, EBC-01, UR(F)-01, SC-01)	3 year course of Diploma in Architectural Assistantship from AICTE recognized College/University.	Minimum **5 years** of experience in similar field.	Rs.27000

*UR- Un-Reserved, UR(F)- Un-Reserved Female, EBC- Extremely Backward Class, SC- Scheduled Class, BC- Backward Class, EWS- Economically Weaker Section.

Note:-1. Projects of Area Development Scheme(ADS), Local Area Plan(LAP), Land Pooling Scheme shall be taken under the framework of Patna Master Plan 2031, BUPD ACT 2012, BUPD Rule 2014, policy and guidelines issued by PMAA and UD&HD Bihar. **2.** Above professionals shall be hired for implementation of above mentioned projects for a period of 10 months purely on Contract Basis, Senior Planner and Senior Urban Designer shall act as Team Leader for assigned projects. After 10 months, the contract period may be extended further depending on requirement and satisfactory performance of the candidate. **3.** Patna is selected for Local Area Plan/ Town Planning Scheme under "Pilot on Formulation of Local Area Plan (LAP) & Town Planning Scheme (TPS)" of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Govt. of India). **4.** CEPT University, Ahmedabad and IIT Roorkee have been associated with Patna Metropolitan Area Authority for preparation of "Area Development Scheme" and "Zonal Development Plan" in Patna Master Plan Area. **5.** Above Team of Professional and Technical Persons shall work in close coordination with Patna Metropolitan Area Authority/UD&HD/Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO). **6.** Last date for submission of Completed Application is 26.03.2021. Candidates may send duly filled Application form along with all the required documents to following email id: adsprojectspmaa@gmail.com **7.** The application form can be downloaded from PMAA website https://nagarseva.bihar.gov.in/pmaa or departmental website state.bihar.gov.in/urban from the date 16.03.2021. **8.** Eligible candidates may attend the Walk-In Interview scheduled on 27.03.2021 at 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM at below mentioned address: Meeting Hall, Ground Floor, Vikash Bhawan, Urban Development and Housing Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna. **9.** Eligible Candidates are advised to carry following Documents for the Walk-in Interview: **a)** One Copy of duly filled Application form. **b)** One set of Professional CV(resume). **c)** One copy of PAN/Adhaar, Experience Certificates and Educational Certificates. (Self Attested) **d)** Original PAN/Adhaar. e) All Original Supporting Documents..

Chief Executive Officer,
Patna Metropolitan Area Authority,
UD&HD Govt. of Bihar.

PR No. 14401(URBAN) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 24X7 Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIVEDITHA NADIG W/o Sandeep Nadig, aged about 27 years, R/a NO. 198, 44th Cross, Jayanagar 8th Block, Near Sangam Circle, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070, do hereby declare that both the names i.e., **NIVEDITHA CHANNARAYAPATNA PRAKASH and NIVEDITHA NADIG** are one and the same and belongs to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **NIVEDITHA NADIG** only, vide affidavit dated 12-03-2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.N. MADHU** at Bangalore.

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CL00407239

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

No. EE/RWSS/Dvn/Smg/AE-II/JJM/E-proc/2861/2020-21 Date: 07.03.2021

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, item-war tenders are invited for the approved works of providing Functional Household Tap Connection for each house under Jal Jeevan Mission in Thirthahalli and Shikaripura Taluks coming under the limits of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga District for the year 2020-21 from the contractors registered in Panchayat Raj Engineering Department for the period 2020-25 in Class 3 and above as per Standard Tender Documents for e-procurement of work KW-2 and 3. Those who are paying the cost of forms and EMD in e-payment may be paid through Credit/Debit cards.

1) The last date for submission of filled tender through online (e-procurement) : **21.03.2021 & 22.03.2021 upto 5.30 P. M.**
2) Technical bid opening date : **23.03.2021 and 24.03.2021 at 11.30 A M**
3) Financial bid opening date : **25.03.2021 and 26.03.2021 at 11.30 A. M.**
4) Period: **60 days.**

If the above dates happens to be a general holiday, the next day will be considered. Information on tender works and conditions may be obtained in the Department's website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sl No.	Indent No
1	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT30148/CALL-2
2	RWSSD/ 2020-21 /WS/WORK_INDENT26541 /CALL-3
3	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT26535/CALL-3
4	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT26525/CALL-2
5	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT26505/CALL-3
6	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT33166
7	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT33167
8	RWSSD/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT30145
	SC CONTRACTORS ONLY
9	RWSSD/ 2020-21 /WS/WORK_INDENT33171

DIPR/SMG/No.84-03/zenkar/2020-21

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga.

$580.29 bn was India's forex reserve as of September 18, according to RBI data. This was an decrease of $4.255 billion over the previous week

STRONG PUSH

Enterprise is the new big business for telecom firms

JONATHAN ANANDA @ New Delhi

THE past few years have seen India's telecom sector act as the stage for a high-intensity tussle for dominance—one that has whittled down the number of competitors from nearly a dozen to less than a handful. But this battle has been largely confined to the more consumer-focused segments—starting off with Jio's entry into mobile services in 2016, and spreading over to the direct-to-home (DTH) and hi-speed home broadband segments over the next few years. The enterprise segment—services provided to businesses—has remained largely untouched, though. At least, until last week.

On Tuesday, Jio's enterprise arm JioBusiness launched seven new tariff plans offering integrated services for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), with the cheapest starting at ₹901 per month.

The enterprise segment for India's telecom sector has remained largely underserved and few telecom service providers have seen any significant revenue coming from it (industry sources say it contributes around 10% of revenue to TSPs, compared to around a quarter in developed nations). Among those who are active in the space, the Tata group and Airtel both have a greater focus toward larger enterprises, with the former not present in the MSME space at all. But MSMEs are rapidly growing into potentially lucrative customers as they move closer to the digital ecosystem, a trend that has only been accelerated by the pandemic and accompanying lockdowns last year. While, Airtel has also been ramping up focus in the space, analysts believe that Jio could use the underpenetrated nature of the market and the current shift towards digital to gain significant revenues.

According to Bank of America Securities, Jio's packages are likely to address around 15-20 million MSMEs out of the over 50 million MSMEs in the market. "Integrated ready-to-use offerings, assisted sales and on-boarding, and digital account management could enable Jio to aggressively gain MSME subscribers, like they did in mobility and home broadband segments," UBS analysts wrote in a note. Jio, they added, could potentially add around 7.5 million high-paying subscribers to its tally, including 3 million MSME fiber users with an average revenue per user (ARPU) in the range of ₹1,100-1,200 per month.

States line up big capex plans to push growth

Much higher than the Centre's muted 1% growth, states have budgeted 15% growth in expenditure for fiscal 2022

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

EVEN as the Centre is cutting back on its expenditure, the state governments have been undertaking the bulk of public spending in a bid to spur economic activity. An analysis of the budgets of 17 major states, which account for about 87 per cent of India's GDP, shows that major states have budgeted about 15 per cent growth in total expenditure in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22), much higher than the muted 1 per cent growth of the central government over the previous year.

Encouragingly, the states have budgeted a sharp 29 per cent year-on-year growth in capital expenditure (capex) at ₹7.84 lakh crore even as they have pencilled lower growth in revenue expenditure at 11 per cent year-on-year growth in the upcoming fiscal year.

In all, states' total expenditure is expected to stand at ₹43 lakh crore in FY22, according to analysts at ICICI Securities. Along with Centre's budgeted total expenditure of ₹35 lakh crore, the total government expenditure is likely to be ₹78 lakh crore in FY22, up 81 per cent from ₹5.8 lakh crore when compared to FY21 (RE), the analysts added.

11%	₹7.8 L cr	14.7%
Rise in revenue expenditure	Budgeted capital expenditure- FY22	Increase in states' total expenditure

So far, all states except three — Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana — have announced their budgets for FY22. Since all states collectively are bigger spenders than the centre and the multipliers associated with states' expenditure are larger compared to centre's expenditure, state budgets are very important from growth perspective. While some of these states would be working hard to make up for the lower expenditures undertaken in FY21 due to lower revenue, the states that have budgeted aggressive increases in total expenditure are Uttar Pradesh (33 per cent), West Bengal and Odisha (25 per cent each), Kerala (22 per cent) and Punjab (20 per cent).

"Assuming a similar rate of growth for all states, we estimate that states' total capex is likely to be ₹9.1 lakh crore in FY22, up from ₹7 lakh crore in FY21. Adding Centre's budgeted capex to this number, we estimate that total government capex in FY22 to come in at ₹14.6 lakh crore, up from ₹11.4 lakh crore in FY21 RE," according to ICICI analysts.

'No adverse findings against Franklin Templeton, its employees so far'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER market regulator SEBI issued show-cause notices to Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund and its officials over risk management practices and personal transactions by employees and management, the company's president said that so far there have been no adverse findings against the fund house or its employees or management.

Franklin Templeton MF had closed down six debt funds in April last year citing redemption pressure and lack of liquidity in the bond market. SBI Funds Management, the Supreme Court-appointed liquidator, is currently in the process of preparing to liquidate the schemes under winding up and distribute proceeds to unitholders at the earliest opportunity, the company said. Sanjay Sapre, President of Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd, said in a letter to investors that since these issues remain under regulatory review, the firm was "constrained from commenting on specific details at this juncture". "But we can confirm that to date, there have been no adverse findings against Franklin Templeton or its employees or management," he wrote.

According to Sapre, the asset management company has submitted detailed responses to show-cause notices issued by SEBI. Regarding accusations that certain employees had made personal redemptions before the six schemes had been wound up, Sapre said that the redemptions are under review and that those individuals have cooperated fully with the process. They have submitted detailed responses to Sebi, which are under consideration, he said.

"We cannot go into detail of our responses, but we believe that we acted in compliance with applicable regulations and rules and that we have strong defenses to the allegation," Sapre wrote.

"The schemes under winding up continue to have significant investment from employees and management of Franklin Templeton (as well as from the asset management company and other group companies of Franklin Templeton)," he added.

Non-metro airports see increased traffic

According to data from the Airports Authority of India, a total of 14 non-metro airports reported an increased traffic passenger in January 2021 compared to same month last year. Domestic passenger traffic in January this year was recorded at 77.34 lakh, showed data from DGCA.

SpiceJet announces 66 new flights as demand for domestic travel rises

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

LOW-cost carrier SpiceJet on Saturday announced 66 new domestic flights, including five additional non-stop ones from Pune to Darbhanga, Durgapur, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Varanasi from March 28 to meet the increasing demand for air travel from smaller cities. Kolkata–Darbhanga, Chennai–Jharsuguda, and Nashik-Kolkata flights are among other new flights being launched.

There will also be new non-stop daily flights on Mumbai-Leh, Leh-Srinagar, Srinagar-Mumbai, Hyderabad-Mumbai, Mumbai-Hyderabad, Mumbai-Surat, Surat-Mumbai, Kochi-Pune, and Pune-Kochi routes.

"As the country's largest regional operator, the new flights further reiterate our commitment towards enhancing regional connectivity, besides offering unique connections to many leisure destinations," said Shilpa Bhatia, Chief Commercial Officer, SpiceJet.

With these flights, SpiceJet passengers from cities such as Varanasi, Darbhanga, Durgapur Srinagar, Leh, Dharamshala, Rajkot, Surat, Madurai and Gorakhpur among others will be able to travel to a host of other cities both on the airline's domestic as well as international network. The carrier will deploy its Boeing 737 & Bombardier Q400 aircraft on these routes.

Not only SpiceJet, airlines in India have been increasing their focus across smaller cities and towns as growth in these centres have outpaced metro cities. The country's largest airline IndiGo is also expanding its regional connectivity. Last month, Indigo had announced starting 22 new flights from March 28 onwards. The new operations will be from Agartala, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Chennai, Bengaluru, Patna and Tirupati, among other cities, Indigo had said.

Start-ups keep up funding momentum, Icertis shines

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

THE start-up ecosystem saw a lot of buzz this week with firms raising over $150 million and a few mergers and acquisitions in the short content and ed-tech verticals. Pune-based Software as a service start-up Icertis almost trebled its valuation at $2.8 billion with an 80 million Series F funding from the existent investor, B Capital Group.

Icertis is now the second most-valuable Saas start-up, after Freshworks, which helps enterprises manage their contract lifecycles. The company plans to use the proceeds to further invest in product development and accelerating its AI and blockchain. Besides, it will also invest in sales and marketing, primarily to expand its partner network across the world. Like a few other start-ups, industry analysts have said that the fresh funds raise may also be followed by Icertis going public especially since there have been key changes at the leadership level with the addition of executives who have helped companies list on stock exchanges. "Icertis has built a mission critical contract intelligence platform which allows organizations to digitise contracts and generate business insights from contracts using AI. The world's largest corporations, across industries, trust Icertis to generate value from their contracts. At B Capital, we look to back leading enterprise software companies which are digitizing traditional analog workflows enabling collaboration and generating value for businesses. We are excited to deepen our relationship with Icertis and look forward to continuing working with their incredible team," said Kabir Narang, founding general Partner at B Capital Group.

Indian Bank to auction two properties for ₹288 cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

PUBLIC sector lender Indian Bank has put on sale two immovable properties of Saravana Stores (Gold Palace) at T Nagar in Chennai.

The lender has issued a notice of sale to recover ₹288 crore from the jewellery represented by its partners, guarantors and title holders. While the property located on Usman Road measures 4,800 sq ft and has a reserve price of ₹124 crore, the second property located on Ranganathan Street has a reserve price of ₹46 crore. Both are located in T Nagar, one of the country's leading commercial hubs, it said.

In January 2020, Karur Vysya Bank said that the outstanding stood at ₹162.8 crore. The state-run lender issued a possession notice in which it stated that the borrowers included Saravana Stores Gold Palace Ltd and its guarantors, including Y Pallaku Durai, son of Yogarathinam, Durai's wife P Sujatha, and son Y P Shiravan.

The bank asked the title holder of Saravana Stores Gold Palace Ltd, Pallaku Durai, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice. After the borrower failed to repay the amount, the bank issued a notice to take possession of the properties.

Bank to raise up to ₹4,000 cr via share sale

State-owned Indian Bank recently said its committee of directors has approved raising up to ₹4,000 crore through share sale. Shareholders of the bank on March 2 had given approval for the raising equity capital up to ₹4,000 crore (including premium) through qualified institutions placement (QIP) in one or more tranches, Indian Bank had said in a BSE filing.

EXPRESS READ

Deepak Mishra appointed as ICRIER CEO

New Delhi: Deepak Mishra, practice manager in the World Bank's macroeconomics, trade, and investment global practice has been appointed as the next director and chief executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the economic think tank said on Saturday. He will take over from Rajat Kathuria who has been the director & chief executive of ICRIER since September 1, 2012.

CEA bats for growth over inflation

New Delhi: Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Saturday has said that the country requires growth at this juncture, even with economic tradeoffs, as it aspires to increase its dominance and self-reliance in the global economy Subramanian's comment comes ahead of the revision of inflation targets by March 31.

Valuation of fintech sector to hit $160 bn

New Delhi: India's financial technology companies are poised to become three times as valuable in the next five years, reaching a valuation of $150-160 billion by 2025, according to the findings from the study that Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and FICCI undertook to size the value-creation potential and identify imperatives for growth

INFLATION

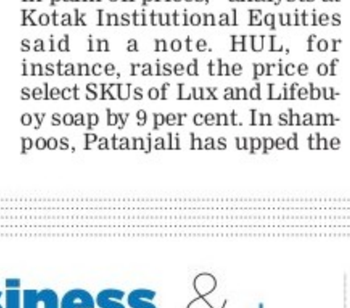
Rising input cost pushes FMCG cos to hike prices

SESA SEN @ New Delhi

FAST-MOVING consumer goods (FMCG) companies have resorted to price hikes in the range of 5-12 per cent of daily use goods to offset inflationary pressure on their key raw material. As demand sees an upswing, firms like Nestle India, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), Colgate Palmolive India, Emami, Tata Consumer Products, Wipro Consumer Care, Marico, ITC have already increased prices, while others like Dabur and Parle are closely tracking the development.

"We witnessed a sharp price increase in milk and further increase in prices of most oil commodities. Price was also increased in soaps with the rise in palm oil prices," analysts at Kotak Institutional Equities said in a note. HUL, for instance, raised the price of select SKUs of Lux and Lifebuoy soap by 9 per cent. In shampoos, Patanjali has upped the price of Kesh Kanti shampoo by 7 per cent, while P&G has increased the price of Olay face cleanser by 11 per cent. Similarly, Marico has raised the price of Saffola edible oil, ITC raised the price of 150gm pack of Sunfeast Bourbon biscuit by 7 per cent and Nestle India has raised the price of 400gm pouch pack of Nestea Iced tea by nine per cent. Meanwhile, tea prices are down 40 per cent from its recent peak (August 2020) but is still up 57 per cent on a y-o-y basis.

Industry executives say that they could also reduce pack sizes as rising costs of input items such as milk, wheat flour and edible oil is beginning to hurt their margins. "The price of wheat flour has definitely gone up over the last year. In South India, it is selling at about ₹24 per kg and it will be slightly lower in the North. There are additional and handling costs that also add costs for small and medium manufacturers," said an industry executive, adding that for small packs, the price increase would be in the form of a gram reduction, while for bigger packs the price hike could be in absolute value terms. Analysts have also warned that companies may have to raise prices further to maintain margins.



India witnesses surge in LPG consumption

Taking Prime Minister's vision to make energy accessible and affordable for even the poorest of the poor forward, the oil & gas industry under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has provided 8 crore LPG connections to Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries. A surge of 23.2 per cent was seen in LPG consumption amid the lockdown due to the free LPG refills given to PMUY beneficiaries. LPG penetration improved from 55 per cent in 2014 to 99 per cent as on March 10, 2021, said Indian Oil Corp.

TRL Krosaki bags ICC Social Impact award

TRL Krosaki Refractories Limited has won the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Social Impact Award for 2021 in the 'Large Enterprise' category. The company was selected for its contribution towards Covid-19 management through its Corporate Social Responsibility activities. Rajib Nag, deputy general manager (marketing) received the award from Nakamura Yutaka, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata in the presence of other officials.

Business & Beyond

NRL to set up crude oil plot at Paradip

The Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has entered into a land lease agreement with Paradip Port Trust (PPT) for its 234.14 acres of land earmarked for a crude oil import terminal plot. The agreement was signed between PPT Senior Assistant Estate Manager Biswajit Mishra and NRL CGM (HR) Prabir Kumar Talukdar in the presence of PPT Chairman Vinit Kumar and Deputy chairman AK Bose and many other officials. The terminal is being set up as part of the NRL's integrated refinery expansion project entailing a cost of more ₹22,000 crore.

JSPL observes 50th National Safety Week at Angul, Odisha

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) celebrated the 50th National Safety Week at its Angul plant. Addressing employees during the valedictory programme, Archana Dash, Asst. Director of Factories & Boilers explained the background on formation of the National Safety Council. Also present at the function was Hridayeshwar Jha, ED- Angul and Damodar Mittal, Factory Manager as guest of honours. Jha administered the safety pledge and emphasised on building a zero harm culture in JSPL.

Canara Bank appoints Satyanarayana Raju as ED

K Satyanarayana Raju has been appointed as the Executive Director of Canara Bank. Earlier, he served as chief general manager of Bank of Baroda. A physics graduate, post graduate in Business Administration (Banking and Finance) and CAIIB, Raju joined Vijaya Bank in 1988. During his 33-year-long banking career, he has headed branches, including Specialised Corporate Banking Branch. He has served as director in BoB Financial Solutions Ltd.

Yuki beats Prajnesh, faces Ramkumar in Dubai

Comeback-man Yuki Bhambri produced a convincing win over India No 1 Prajnesh Gunneswaran in the Qualifiers of the Dubai Duty Free Championships, on Saturday. Yuki beat his compatriot 6-1, 6-4 in the opening round. He will face Ramkumar Ramanathan next.

MUMBAI MASALA

The Islanders finish on top after sneaking past Mohun Bagan 2-1

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @ New Delhi

THE raging pandemic at one point threatened to put a full stop on sports around the world. But the Indian Super League persevered, with players and team officials and staff forced to remain inside a bio-secure zone for the entire duration of five months. The footballing action was played in front of empty stadiums in Goa.

It seemed improbable, but in the end it was possible. Overcoming all the adversities, sports triumphed at the end of 114 days and the seventh season of the ISL concluded in a thrilling fashion. Mumbai City FC were deserving champions after they pipped ATK Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Fatorda Stadium on Saturday.

This was coach Sergio Lobera's first title as well. And what a season it has been for the Islanders. They became only the second club to win the League Winners Shield and the ISL trophy after Bengaluru FC. They led for the majority of the campaign and many predicted right at the start that the team from Mumbai would win the title. And an attractive blend of football married with defensive steel and a desire to dig deep saw them rise above the others during the league phase and those qualities came to the fore in their triumph over ATK.

Mumbai City FC players with the ISL trophy on Saturday | SPORTZPICS

It was an uncharacteristic error from Ahmed Jahouh, which resulted from aggressive closing down from Roy Krishna, and David Williams pounced to put the Kolkata giants in the lead. The Islanders seemed flustered and could not get going in the opening stages. And soon enough, an own goal from Tiri which came from miss-communication at the back saw Mumbai get back on level terms.

Golden Glove winner Arindam Bhattacharya's error allowed substitute Bartholomew Ogbeche with a chance and he kept his cool under pressure as Bipin Singh calmly slotted into the unguarded net. The coach and players dedicated the win to Amey Ranawade who had to be hospitalised after a terrible fall right on the stroke of half-time. He suffered a concussion and the word from the hospital is he is recovering but will be kept under observation.

A jubilant Lobera added, "This is the result of hardwork. I want to thank my players, staff, management and all our families. Difficult situation at half-time. I told my players to focus on the game. I told them Amey is a strong player and he would want us to win this for him."

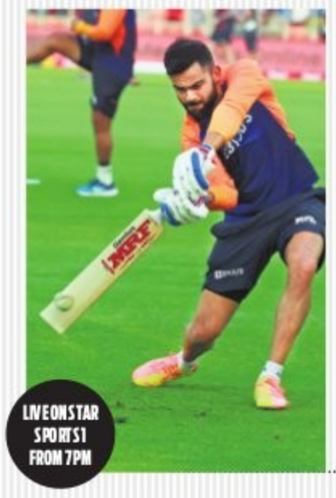
Full story: newindianexpress.com

IT'S TIME TO BOUNCE BACK

Sunday will witness both India men's and women's teams in action. Coming off defeats, Kohli & Co face England in second T20I, Mithali's side play SA in fourth ODI

ONUS ON TOP-THREE

India's top-three could manage only five runs among them in the first T20I. India surely missed Rohit Sharma, but he is unlikely to return as he has been rested for a couple of matches. His absence means, onus will be on openers and skipper **Virat Kohli** to lay a solid foundation if India wish to continue their approach of playing fearless cricket.



LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 FROM 7PM

SAINI MAY COME IN

The hosts may draft in pacer Navdeep Saini in place of one of the three spinners. Given the help England pacers extracted from the wicket, pacer Saini can come handy and lend variety to the bowling department.

PITCH & CONDITIONS

The ball came nicely onto the bat in the second innings in the first match. The trend will continue as captain winning the toss will prefer to chase. Dew will also make life difficult for the bowlers in the second essay.

JEMIMAH'S FORM A CONCERN

The long hiatus has indeed affected Jemimah Rodrigues' form and rhythm. The opener has added just 10 runs in the three innings, throwing away her wicket inside the first powerplay in all the matches. With the team management keen to experiment with the combinations with an eye on the World Cup, she might make way for Priya Punia.

SEEKING TURNING POINTS

India have largely relied on the three-spin attack to exert pressure on the opponent irrespective of the conditions. However, they are still to come to the party in this series. Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav is yet to open the account while off-spinner Deepti Sharma has taken just one wicket. Left-armer Rajeshwari Gaekwad has scalped four.

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 2 FROM 9AM

AGEING LIKE A FINE WINE

Coming off a 15-month break, India's two experienced campaigners Mithali Raj and **Jhulan Goswami** have brushed aside their rustiness to perform well. Jhulan has been the only Indian bowler to account for wickets in all three matches while the skipper scored 50 and 36 in the two innings that she played. They will be expected to play a key role.

CAPTAINS' CORNER

We just weren't aware enough of what we had to do on that kind of pitch, I think lack of execution of the shots that we tried to play out there in the middle is something we have to address as batsmen that it wasn't an ideal.
Virat Kohli

What we need to work on is consistency. It's not worrisome that our spinners aren't picking up wickets because if they bowl more, play more matches, they will get back to the rhythm that they had before the pandemic.
Mithali Raj

Two Oly core group athletes test positive for doping, says NADA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

ATHLETICS seems to be in focus again. With just two days left for the senior National Athletics Federation Cup meet in Patiala, two high-profile athletes have tested positive for banned substances. According to National Anti-doping Agency chief Navin Agarwal, at least two athletes who are part of the Olympic core group have tested positive. He, however, did not name any athlete.

There are reports that one athlete could be a leading member of the 4x400m women's relay team. The athlete is understood to have tested positive for methylhexanamine (MHA), a specified substance on World Anti-Doping Agency prohibited list. According to WADA, MHA is a stimulant that was sold as a medicine up to the early 1970s, but is no longer used for medical treatment. It is currently included as a constituent of some dietary supplements sold today, including via the internet.

In February, NADA collected a total of 148 samples including 15 blood samples. As many as 12 samples of Olympic core probable/registered testing pool athletes were collected out of competition on two occasions while 10 samples each were collected during 8th National Open Race Walking Championship in Ranchi and Indian GP-I in Patiala.

EXPRESS READ

K'taka women win

BENGALURU: Karnataka beat Delhi in the BCCI senior women's one-day trophy by four wickets in Chennai. Chandu V played an important role, scalping three wickets and Delhi were all out for 184 runs. Karnataka reached the target in the 48th over as Divya G (40) top-scored in the second innings.

Chelsea frustrated

LONDON: Chelsea missed a chance to cement their place in the Premier League's top four as Leeds held them to a frustrating 0-0 draw on Saturday. Thomas Tuchel's side had plenty of chances but couldn't deliver the knockout blow in a hard-fought clash at Elland Road. The Blues remain in fourth place.

'Players' union to promote sport'

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

AFTER a long hiatus due to the pandemic, Pankaj Advani was back on the green baize in Bengaluru. He added another trophy to his cabinet, beating Brijesh Damani 6-1 to win the second edition of Bangalore Snooker Academy's (BSA) All India Open Snooker Championship on Saturday. However, one could sense a bit of rustiness in his game and the Bengaluru man aims to play a few more competitions before the nationals. The 35-year-old spoke to this daily about youngsters in the cue sport, and his role as one of vice-presidents in the revived players' association as well. Excerpts.

Advani won the BSA All India Open Snooker on Saturday | MEGHANA SASTRY

■ **On first tournament**

Obviously, due to the pandemic, the situation was very tricky. Snooker is a sport, where tournaments can be organised. We (players) were extremely happy with the kind of playing conditions here at BSA.

■ **On young Indian players**

If you go to this tournament, you will see a lot of new faces. Couple of them really impressed me like Karmesh Patel, who reached the quarterfinal, totally unexpected, unheard of. Guys like Dhvaj Haria, Shrikrishna have been around. When you see the national championships, so many of the juniors are now doing well at the senior level. It is only a matter of time... like even Shrikrishna has won a senior national billiards title. You look at these young guys and some in this tournament and in other states, there are a lot of youngsters. While there are a lot of players, I feel, it is about how they prioritise the game and how they get themselves together and get seasoned quickly.

■ **Revival of players' union**

The unity of the players is of paramount importance, especially given the fact that in many sports, not all of the top players, because of the rivalry you can call or because of the stakes in the game, they do not see eye to eye on many things. It is great to have a united front now. Through the platform, we want to work together with the federation.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Eye on Shaw in Hazare final

ENS/AGENCIES @ New Delhi

THE focus will be on Mumbai skipper Prithvi Shaw as his team take on Uttar Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final on Sunday.

Shaw who has hit 754 runs in the tournament — which includes 105 not out, 227 not out, 185 not out and 165 — will be keen to continue his fine form and help the three-time champion clinch the title. They are yet to lose a match.

For Uttar Pradesh, a steady outfit under coach Gyanendra Pandey, they have played solid cricket without being spectacular with a young captain Karan Sharma leading the team well. Their left-arm pacer Yash Dayal will be key.

Live on Hotstar at 9am

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients, **The Malleswaram Sri Vardhaman Sthanakvasi Jain Sangha** registered under the provision of the Karnataka Co-operative Societies Act having its office at No.9 and 9/1, 7th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003, have represented that the following Original Documents pertaining to the title of the Schedule Property belonging to the Trust have been lost/misplaced and the same are not traceable.

a) Sale Deed dated 26-06-1965, Document No.1016/1965-66, Book I, Volume 2013, Pages 165 to 173 and registered at the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore City North executed by Mrs.Rukma Bai Babu Rao Desai and Mr. Amrutha Rao in favour of the Trust.

b) Sale Deed dated 10-06-1966, Document No.762/1966-67, Book I, Volume 2060, Pages 225 to 229 and registered at the office of the Sub Registrar, Bangalore City North executed by M/s. R. Subbaiah Setty and Co represented by its Partners Mr. S.Rangaiah Setty and Mr. H.L.A. Gupta in favour of the Trust.

It is further represented that the above said Original Documents have not been pledged/mortgaged and no lien/charge has been created on the lost document. Any person/s holding the said Original Documents are requested to return the same to the undersigned or to our clients, **within 15 days** from the date of this notice since except our clients, no other person/s are entitled to hold the custody of the above referred Original Documents.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the composite immovable property bearing Corporation Nos.9 and 9/1, 7th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore within the revenue administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike together with the building thereon constructed on site measuring: East to West : 64 Feet North to South :100 Feet Total Area 6,400 Square Feet and bounded on:

East by : Private Property
West by : Private Property
North by : 7th Cross Road
South by : Conservancy Lane

N. JAIPRAKASH RAO
VEENA RAO
N. ASHOK KUMAR
JAYPEE ASSOCIATES
- LAW FIRM -
38, "KRISHNA", 1st Cross,
Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560003
Ph.:23560365/23468742/23565286
Email: contact@jaypeeassociates.com
Bengaluru Date : 13-03-2021

Govt of Karnataka
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL, D.C.OFFICE
Chitradurga District, Chitradurga-577501
Telephone No. & Fax No. 08194-225713 E-mail: dudc_ctg@yahoo.co.in

No: DUDC/NAGAROTHANA(MUNICIPALITY)-3/CR 102/2017-18 Date : 12.03.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy commissioner, Chitradurga District invites tenders in One cover system using **KW-2 from Class-III Contractors** and Two cover system using **KW-4** Tender Document from class-II contractors for Nagarothana (Municipality)-3 Project in Chitradurga District Package works as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Estimated Cost of the work value (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of Construction (including Monsoon)
	Hiriyuru CMC			
1	Widening of Roads, Construction of Drain, Footpath and Road Divider Providing Street Light in Huliyar Main Road From Welcome Arch **INDENT No: DMA/2020-21/RD/WORK_INDENT112144**	400.00	As per Govt. order EMD Declaration Should be uploaded in E-Portal	12 Months
2	Construction of Library Building and Anganawadi Building in Ward No.18 Near Filter House in Hiriyur CMC INDENT No. **DMA/2020-21/BD//WORK_INDENT112142**	50.00	As per Govt. order EMD Declaration Should be uploaded in E-Portal	6 Months
3	Providing and Laying 200 MM Diameter K-7 Class D1 Raising Main and to Distribution Line Hope Pipe of Diameter 160 MM & 250 MM From Vedavathi First Grade Science Collage to Sri. Gurusiddarameshwara Krupa in Huliyur Main Road in Hiriyur CMC INDENT No. **DMA/2020-21/WS/WORK_INDENT107840**	50.00	As per Govt. order EMD Declaration Should be uploaded in E-Portal	6 Months
	Hosadurga TMC			
1	Construction of Commercial Complex in Vacant Site of Size 24.00x25.00 Meters Near Private Busstand (North to Santhe Honda) in Hosadurga TMC Indent No. **DMA/2017-18/BD/WORK_INDENT63675**	116.46	As per Govt. order EMD Declaration Should be uploaded in E-Portal	12 Months

Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurment platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the e-Procurement platform **(www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. **Calendar of Events and other information are as follows: (1)** Pre Bid Meeting for Bidders : **19.03.2021, 11.00 AM (2)** Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents **12.04.2021, 5.30 PM (3)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) **15.04.2021, 5.30 PM (4)** The financial bid will be opened after the approval of the technical bid. Any changes in the tender conditions and Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner,
Chitradurga District, Chitradurga.

DIPR/CHITRADURGA/SHIRDISAI/859/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of Karnataka
JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA
Yenigadale, Chikkaballapura District, Ph: 08154-298999
E-mail: jnvychikkaballapura@gmail.com

JNVY.f.1-5/JNVY/2020-21 Date: 08.03.2021

Brief Tender Notification (Short Term)

The sealed and super scribed tenders are invited by the reputed suppliers/manufacturers/distributors and service providers of the following supplies for our Vidyalaya.
(1) Building Materials - Iron, Cement, Tiles, Granite and other Hardware items etc., (2) PVC Pipes, PVC Fittings, Plumbing items etc., (3) Electrical items and Electrical Work
The tender documents can be obtained from the office between **9.30 am to 4.30 pm** on all working days by paying **Rs.200-00** (online only) (Bank details: SBI, Chintamani A/C No. 10740726310, IFSC Code SBIN0007909). The tender documents can be downloaded from the vidyalaya website: https://navodaya.gov.in/nvs/nvs-chool/CHIKKABALLAPURA/en/home/#
The last date for obtaining tender documents: **25.03.2021 4.00 pm**
The last date for tender submission : **26.03.2021 4.00 pm**
The date of opening : **27.03.2021 11.00 am**

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/SHIRDI SAI/362/2020-21 **Sd/- Principal**

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Refining Facility, Mysuru
Post Bag 1. Yelwal, Mysuru-571130, Tel.: 0821-2402154 Fax:0821-2403064

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Superintending Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysuru -571130 invites on behalf of the President of India, Sealed item rate tenders from experienced Contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for the following work(s):

Tender Reference No.	**BARC/MYS/PO&M/RF/Aq. HF /SALE/2021/**
Description of Item	Purchase and Collection of 10,000 ltrs. of "Aqueous Hydrofluoric Acid By-product)", expected to be generated during process and stored in 30 litrs. capacity HDPE carboys (Jerry Cans) and Transportation of the chemical, in one or more than one lot /year in 3 years period, by prospective buyers, in party's own vehicle to their works, taking whole and sole responsibility of chemical handling, during transit.
Earnest Money Deposit	**Nil** , Bid Security Declaration(Hard Copy) may please be provided, as per the format enclosed in a separate sealed envelope. Non-compliance of Bid Security Declaration would amount to suspension from Bidding for this tender and also future tender for a period of 6 months, as decided by Superintending Engineer, BARC, Mysuru.
Security Deposit	**10.0% of tendered value**
Period of Completion	**3 Years**
Cost of Tender Document	₹500 (Rupees 500/-only). Tender document (by post)- ₹50/- extra i.e. ₹500/- + ₹50/- (Non-Refundable)
Tender Sale Period	**From 15.03.2021 to 29.03.2021, Till 16.00 Hrs**
Due Date & time for submission of Tender	**19.04.2021 Till 2.00 PM**
Date & time of opening of Tender	**19.04.2021, 2.30 PM**
Place of Tender Submission	Tender Box No. 3, kept at Bldg.2, BARC, Mysuru
Place of Tender opening	Accounts Section, Bldg.2, BARC, Mysuru
Contact No.	PM(PO&M):**0821-2406161** Dy.PM, (O-RF): **0821- 2406640** Office : **0821-2402154/0821-2406568**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, BARC, Mysuru
For & on behalf of the President of India

JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
New Police Line Road, opposite to C.M.House, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008
Website: www.jserc.org, Email: info@jserc.org

ADDENDUM

Reference is invited on the notice inviting bid for consultancy job in regulatory matters from capable and experienced consultants in the field. The last date for submission of bid is 15th March 2021. Due to unavoidable circumstances the last date for submission of bid is hereby now extended upto 30th April 2021.

By order
(Rajendra Prasad Nayak)
Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
Stores Purchase Officer, UAS, Raichur – 584104,
E-mail: spo@uasraichur.edu.in Ph: 08532 220165

E-Tender Notification No. SPO/UASR/E-Proc-11/2020-21, Dt: 12-03-2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is inviting short term e-tender for **Purchase of Scientific Equipements & other materials.** The interested suppliers are requested to participate through online only. The website address is www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in (Indent number: **UAS/2020-21/IND3775 to 3778.** The last date for submission of filled in Tender Document is **26-03-2021.**

Sd/- Stores Purchase Officer
UAS, Raichur.

DIP/Raichur/668/MC&A/2020-21

Uttar Pradesh New & Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)
UPNEDA (Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. - 226010, Mob. No.: 9415609006, Fax: 0522-2720779, 2720829
Website : https://www.upneda.org.in E-mail : compneda@rediffmail.com

GeM Bid Notice

UPNEDA invites online Bids from Prospective Bidders through GeM Portal for the design, supply, installation, commissioning and 5 years comprehensive warranty and maintenance of following items at various sites in Uttar Pradesh as per the details given in GeM Bid document.

Sr. No.	Item	GeM Bid No.	Tentative Quantity/ Capacity (Nos/LPD)	Estimated cost (Rupees in Lakh)
1.	Design, supply, installation & commissioning with 5 years comprehensive warranty and maintenance of Solar PV Street Lighting System.	GEM/2021/B/1116683 Dt. 12/03/2021	26000 Nos.	4550.00
2.	Design, supply, installation, commissioning and 5 years comprehensive warranty and maintenance of Solar Water Heating Systems (FPC)	GEM/2021/B/1116230 Dt. 12/03/2021	Total Capacity 4500 LPD	17.50

The Bid documents are available on GeM Portal and UPNEDA **Website: "https://www.upneda.org.in"** from 12/03/2021. The pre-bid meeting regarding bids will be held on 16/03/2021 at 11:30 AM at UPNEDA Head Office. Technical bid shall be open on dated 22/03/2021. Director UPNEDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Director, UPNEDA

QuoteExpress

IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions.

edex YOUR LIFE COACH

Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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THE ART

LA BERGÈRE RENTRANT DES MOUTONS, OR SHEPHERDESS BRINGING IN SHEEP

PAINTER CAMILLE PISSARRO

DRAWN IN 1886

GENRE NEO-IMPRESSIONIST OR POINTILLIST STYLE

STYLE OIL ON CANVAS

VALUATION OVER $1 MILLION (2014)

THE ARTIST

Camille Pissarro **(1830 – 1903)**

Only artist to have shown his work at all eight Paris Impressionist exhibitions from 1874 to 1886

Father figure not only to the Impressionists but also to all four of the major Post-Impressionists like **Cezanne, Seurat, Gauguin, and van Gogh**

EXFILE • ART

PASSIONATE FIGHT FOR A PAINTING

A French Holocaust survivor is in a legal tussle with a US university over a painting by French Neo-impressionist Camille Pissarro. The painting was looted by the Nazis during their anti-Jew pogrom between 1941 and 1945, in the years coinciding with the Second World War. Here's a bird's eye view of the saga:

WHY THE SUIT...

Léone Meyer (1939) is the sole Holocaust survivor of the Meyer family, which adopted her after her family was deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Her attempt to revisit the 2016 deal with Oklahoma University is the current bone of contention:

Meyer wants the deal overturned, angering the university which is threatening to sue her for millions of dollars

Under the terms of the 2016 deal, the artwork was to be displayed in France for five years and then rotated between museums in Paris and Oklahoma every three years

Meyer wants to leave the painting to the Musee d'Orsay in Paris to be showcased among its impressive Impressionist art collection

The Paris museum has declined the gift, saying shipping it across the Atlantic every three years will be very costly. It is to return to the US in July

THE NAZI CONNECT

After Hitler became Chancellor, he made plans to transform his home city of Linz in Austria into the Third Reich's capital city for the arts. He hired architects to work from his designs to build several galleries and museums, to be known as the Führermuseum. He wanted to fill his museum with the greatest art treasures in the world. But that was not all. Artworks were often sold to buyers through neutral countries like Switzerland to raise capital for purchasing materials for the Nazi war machine

During his lifetime, **Camille Pissarro** sold few of his paintings. By the **21st century,** however, his paintings were selling for millions:

$14,601,000
fetched by a group of four paintings — Les Quatre Saisons (the Four Seasons) in 2007

$7,026,500
drawn by Le Pont Boieldieu et la Gare d'Orléans at Sotheby's in New York in 2009

$30,000,000
Le Boulevard de Montmartre, Matinée de Printemps, sold at Sotheby's in London

ART TALK

Impressionism is marked by relatively small, thin, brush strokes, open composition, with emphasis on accurate depiction of light in its changing qualities. It came up as a counter to Paris Salon that refused to show their art. The impressionists showed their work outside the salon starting 1874

THE STORY SO FAR

1930s Painting acquired by Raoul Meyer, who ran the Paris department store Galeries Lafayette

1941 Confiscated by the Nazis

1951 Spotted at an exhibition in Switzerland

1953 Raoul's attempt to stake claim to painting dismissed by a Swiss court

1956 Reaches US, becomes part of the Weitzenhoffer family collection

2000 The Weitzenhoffers donate it to the Oklahoma University (OU)

2013 Léone Meyer sues OU, claiming ownership to the painting

2016 OU recognizes Meyer as rightful owner in a deal

Scientists build replica of world's oldest computer

Combine X-rays and remains of a 2,000-yr-old device called Antikythera Mechanism to fashion the model to calculate astronomical positions

SCIENCE

LONDON: Researchers at University College London (UCL) believe they have solved the mystery of the Antikythera Mechanism — world's oldest computer — by building a digital replica with a working gear system at the front, the piece that has eluded the scientific community since 1901.

Scientists have been working for more than a century to decipher the Antikythera Mechanism, which is a 2,000-year-old device used by ancient Greek's to calculate astronomical positions.

Now, using a combination of X-ray images and ancient Greek mathematical analysis, the team decoded the design of the front gear to match physical evidence and inscriptions etched in the bronze . The digital result shows a center dome representing Earth that is surrounded by the moon phase, the sun, Zodiac constellations and rings for Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

Lead author Professor Tony Freeth (UCL Mechanical Engineering) explained: "Ours is the first model that conforms to all the physical evidence and matches the descriptions in the scientific inscriptions engraved on the Mechanism itself. The Sun, Moon and planets are displayed in an impressive tour de force of ancient Greek brilliance."

The discovery

In 1901, divers looking for sponges off the coast of Antikythera, a Greek island in the Aegean Sea, stumbled upon a Roman-era shipwreck that held the highly sophisticated astronomical calculator.

The Antikythera Mechanism has since captivated the scientific community and the world with wonder, but has also sparked a more than century long investigation into how an ancient civilization fashioned such an incredible device.

We managed to match the evidence in Fragments A and D to a mechanism for Venus, which models its 462-year planetary period relation, with the 63-tooth gear playing a crucial role

David Higgon, team member

The calculator's gears and face form the motions of the planets and sun, phases of the lunar calendar and positions of Zodiac constellations, along with special Earth events like the Olympic Games.

At the time there were only five known planets and the Greek's positioned the Earth as the center of the universe, which was all taken into account by UCL when making their model. Only about one third of the Mechanism has survived, and is split into 82 fragments that has played a part into why the device has been difficult to decipher.

The largest fragment, known as Fragment A, shows features of bearings, pillars and a block, while Fragment D features a disk, a 63 tooth-gear and plate.

Now that the team has an idea how it was constructed, the next step is to 'prove its feasibility,' added co-author, Dr. Adam Wojcik (UCL Mechanical Engineering). "A particular challenge will be the system of nested tubes that carried the astronomical outputs," he pointed out.

Over 50 genes determine the colour of eyes, study finds

HEALTH

LONDON: A new study reveals human eye color is much more complex than previously believed. A group of international scientists have identified 50 new genes that play a role in eye color following the genetic analysis of nearly 195,000 people in Europe and Asia.

It was previously said that shades were controlled by one or two genes, with brown eyes typically dominating blue. The team also discovered 1,636 Asian participants with different shades of brown eyes had iris pigmentation variations similar to Europeans who have a wider range from dark brown to light blue.

"Our study outcomes demonstrate that the genetic complexity of human eye color considerably exceeds previous knowledge and expectations, highlighting eye color as a genetically highly complex human trait," reads the study published in Science Advances.

The study, led by King's College London and Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, is deemed to be 'the largest genetic study of its kind to date'.

These findings will help to improve the understanding of eye diseases such as pigmentary glaucoma and ocular albinism, where eye pigment levels play a role.

The color of our eyes has always been a mysterious wonder and is usually a surprise at birth. However, new technologies are allowing humans to choose the shade of a babies eyes, along with other abilities and features.

A form of gene editing called CRISPR is already being used by scientists in China to alter disease-causing genetic mutations in human embryos.

FOUR-PRONG STRATEGY

Blackbucks locking horns during a fight for dominance inside an enclosure at Mini Zoo in Bathinda on Saturday | PTI

FACT OF THE MATTER

Dim lights to help birds navigate

CONSERVATION

The lights of Philadelphia might not shine as bright in the coming weeks as a coalition in the City of Brotherly Love tries to prevent millions of migrating birds that pass through twice a year from slamming into skyscrapers and crashing to the sidewalk. Bird Safe Philly on Thursday announced the Lights Out Philly initiative, a voluntary programme, in which as many external and internal lights in buildings are turned off or dimmed at night during the spring and fall.

The problem of artificial lights attracting birds to their deaths is not new. Scientists estimate between 365 million and one billion birds are killed by collisions with buildings in the US each year.

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PRIMORDIAL ACTIVITY

Volcanic pollution gifts this gaseous planet fresh atmosphere

SPACE

NEW YORK: A small gas exoplanet may have lost its atmosphere billions of years ago, but then gained a second one through volcanic activity, according to astronomers. The planet, GJ 1132 b, is thought to have begun as a gaseous world, similar to Jupiter or Saturn but smaller than Neptune, with a thick hydrogen blanket of atmosphere.

It quickly lost its primordial hydrogen and helium atmosphere, having it 'cooked off' within the first 100 million years of the planet forming due to the intense radiation of its hot, intense host star - which it orbits once every 1.6 days. This left it a 'bare core', similar in size to the Earth, but with no atmosphere - but astronomers say it developed a second atmosphere due to volcanic activity on the surface of the now rocky world at some point in the billions of years that followed. The team, from NASA and the University of Cambridge used Hubble and computer modelling to explore how the atmosphere was first lost and then regained.

Recent observations of the planet, first discovered in 2015, revealed more details about its atmosphere including the fact it has a hydrocarbon haze, similar to what can be seen on Earth after a smog.

Astronomers believe this is a 'secondary atmosphere,' in part due to the inclusion of chemical 'fingerprints' in the observations showing elements of primordial hydrogen and helium.

IN EVER LOVING MEMORY OF

Shri. M. G. George Muthoot

Group Chairman, The Muthoot Group of Companies
(1949 – 2021)

With profound sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Group Chairman, Shri. M. G. George Muthoot on 5th March, 2021.

The Muthoot Group Family stands united and pledges to remain unwaveringly committed to take forward the legacy and strong values practiced by our beloved Chairman. We also remain resolute in continuing his great work both in terms of business and plethora of charitable activities so earnestly undertaken by him for the well-being of the lesser privileged, society and the nation.

We sincerely thank everyone for their heartfelt condolences.

In grief
The entire Muthoot Family, Management & Staff

The Muthoot Group